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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

CHARTS OF FARM PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS
AND
WHOLESALE PRICES OF
NONAGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
BY MONTHS, 1910-1926

1.9
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JUL 2 1927



Washington, D. C.
June, 1927.

**Prepared by
Division of Statistical
and Historical Research**

CONTENTS

This set of charts shows graphically, by months from 1910 through 1926, the fluctuations in the following price series:

1. Farm prices of 25 major products sold by farmers in the United States. (Charts 1 - 25)
2. Relative farm prices of grains, meat animals, and dairy and poultry products. (Charts 26 - 28)
3. Index numbers of farm prices by groups. (Chart 29)
4. Index numbers of farm prices and wholesale prices of non-agricultural products. (Chart 30)
5. The relative purchasing power of money and farm products. (Charts 31 - 32)

The data for these charts are contained in the handbook of Index Numbers Farm Price for June 1927. Current data appear regularly in Crops and Markets and in The Agricultural Situation.

The charts appear in the following order:

<u>Crops:</u>	<u>Chart No.:</u>	<u>Livestock and livestock products</u>	<u>Chart No:</u>
Wheat	1		
Corn	2	Cattle	16
Oats	3	Calves	17
Barley	4	Sheep	18
Rye	5	Lambs	19
Cotton	6	Hogs	20
Cottonseed	7	Horses	21
Hay	8	Chickens	22
Flaxseed	9	Eggs	23
Potatoes	10	Butter	24
Sweet potatoes	11	Wool	25
Beans	12		
Apples	13		
Grapefruit	14		
Oranges	15		
Relative prices by groups:			
Wheat, corn, and oats			26
Cattle, hogs, and lambs			27
Butter, chickens, and eggs			28
Index numbers of farm prices by groups			29
Index numbers of farm prices and wholesale prices of nonagricultural products			30
The purchasing power of money in exchange for commodities			31
The relative purchasing power of farm products			32

The farm prices in these charts represent average prices received by farmers throughout the United States for their major products of all classes and grades and are not directly comparable with wholesale prices of farm products for specified grade, class, or quality at a specified central market, such as are used in the wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Each of these price graphs is so constructed as to show either the actual prices per unit (right hand scale) or prices as percentages of their pre-war average (left hand scale).

On each graph is also shown the index of wholesale prices of nonagricultural commodities which serves to represent the present level of prices of goods other than farm products in relation to their pre-war averages, and the probable level of prices paid by farmers in exchanging their units of farm products for units of nonagricultural products. For this latter purpose a more adequate measure would be prices paid by farmers at the local country stores, but in the absence of such an index, the index of wholesale prices of nonagricultural prices for recent years may be assumed to represent approximately the relative advance in prices actually paid.

For the purpose of comparing the movements of prices by groups, Chart 29, shows the index numbers of farm prices of grains, meat animals, dairy and poultry products, and cotton and cottonseed. The commodities included in these groups are as follows:

Grains: Wheat, corn, oats, barley, and rye

Meat animals: Cattle, calves, sheep, lambs, and hogs

Dairy and poultry products: Butter, milk, chickens, and eggs

Cotton and cottonseed:

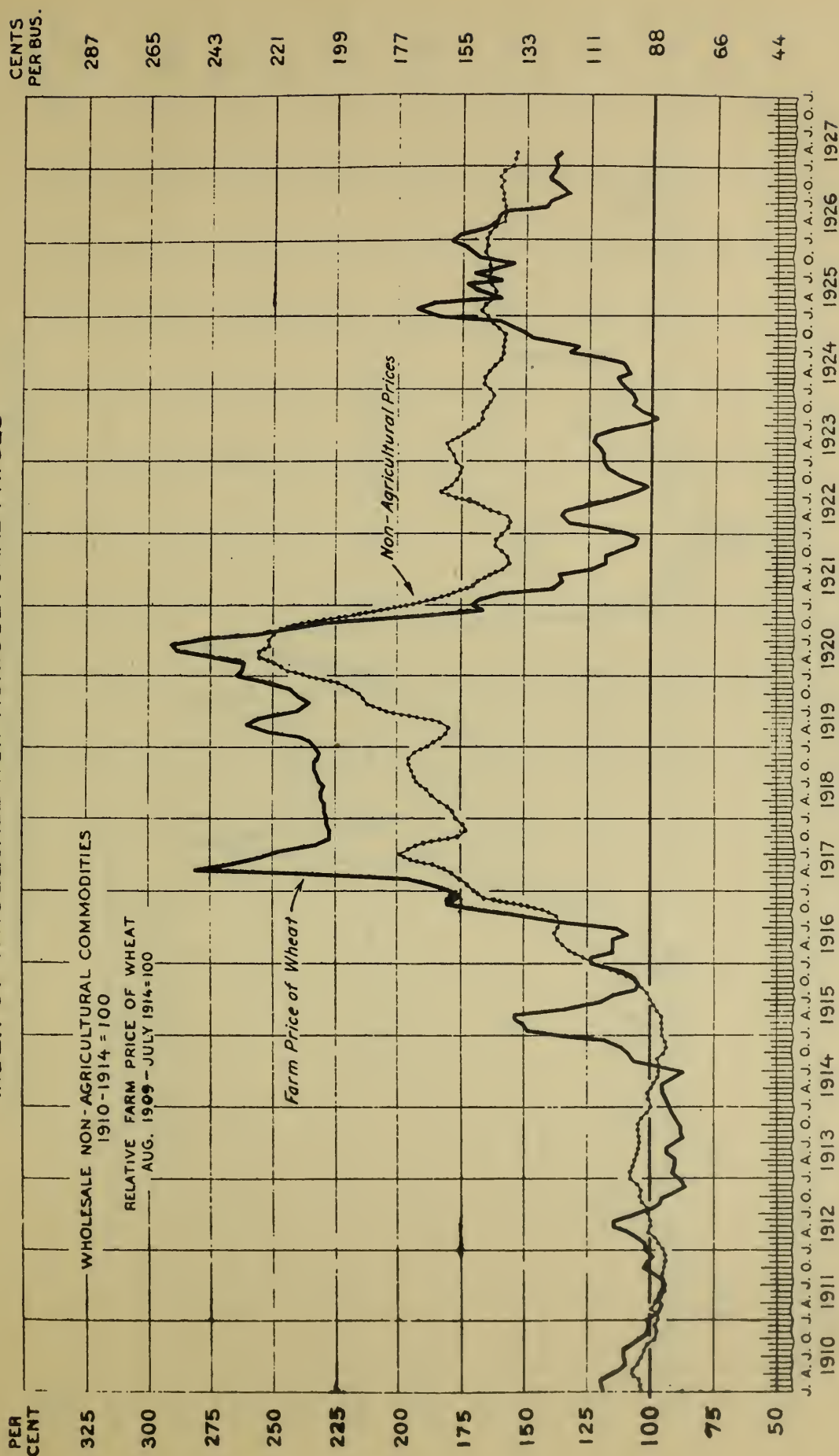
The general index numbers of farm prices shown in Chart 30 represent the combined fluctuations in prices of 30 farm products through 1925, and 27 farm products thereafter. The complete list and the method of construction both of this index and the group indexes in Chart 29 are given in the Supplement to the Agricultural Situation for June, 1925, and in the Supplement to Crops and Markets for August, 1924. Interpreted on the basis of their construction, these price index numbers represent changes in the value of FIXED QUANTITIES of farm products sold by farmers.

Chart 31 shows the monthly changes in the value of money when exchanged for nonagricultural, and agricultural commodities, and "all commodities" at wholesale prices. These indexes are derived from the "all commodity" index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and its two component group indexes of wholesale prices of nonagricultural and agricultural products. The latter relates to agricultural products produced in the United States. Just as the higher price level for "all commodities" indicates the lower buying power of the average dollar, so the higher level of nonagricultural prices indicates the lower buying power of money in exchange for nonagricultural goods. For example, in December, 1926, the indexes of agricultural, nonagricultural, and all commodity prices were respectively 141.3, 158.3 and 149.9 per cent of their prices before the war.

The relative buying power of money, or the dollar, in exchange for these separate groups of products (obtained by dividing the pre-war dollar by these indexes) at wholesale prices in December, 1926, was therefore \$.71 when exchanged for agricultural products, \$.63 when exchanged for nonagricultural products and \$.57 when exchanged for "all commodities." Inasmuch as farmers buy largely nonagricultural products with the money received for their products, the value of the farmers' dollar is more nearly represented by its value in exchange for nonagricultural goods.

In Chart 32 the relative purchasing power of an average unit of farm products is obtained by dividing the farm price index shown in Chart 30 by the nonagricultural price index, or by multiplying the index of farm prices (Chart 30) by the index of the relative buying power of money in exchange for nonagricultural goods (Chart 31). This index of the relative purchasing power of farm products may be considered as representing the extent to which other prices have risen more than farm prices since 1910-14. Thus with the index of nonagricultural prices at 158.3 in December, 1926, and farm prices at 127.4, the latter had risen since 1910-14 only 80.5 per cent as high as non-agricultural prices at the wholesale markets. Interpreted in another way, if prices of units of farm products have risen only 80.5 per cent as high as industrial prices, they can not, of course, be exchanged for the same amount of nonagricultural goods as before; in other words, the relative purchasing power of a unit of farm products in December, 1926, in exchange for a unit of industrial products at the central markets, was 80.5 per cent of its former former exchange value. $(127.4/158.3 - 80.5)$

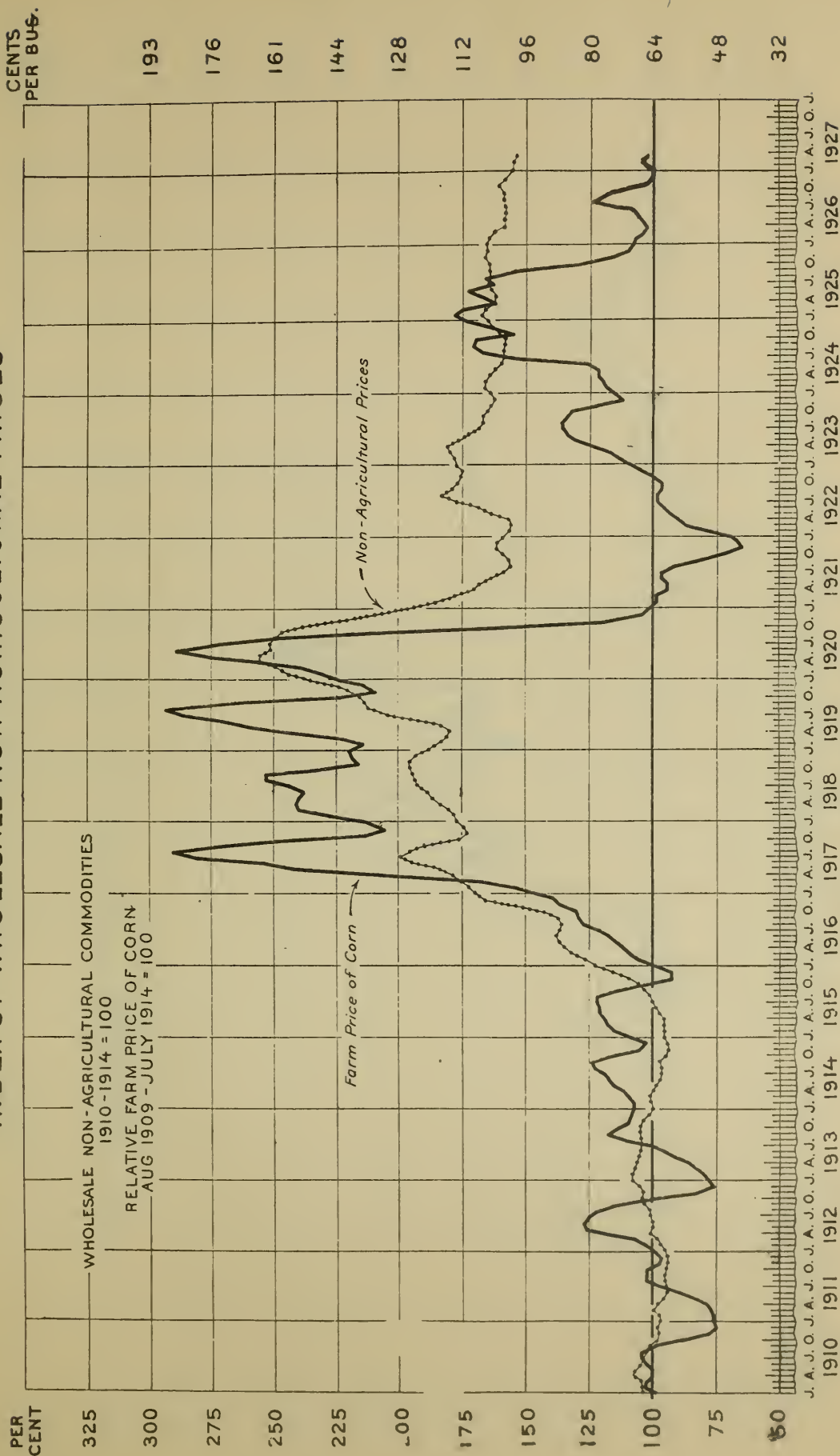
FARM PRICES OF WHEAT AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 1.

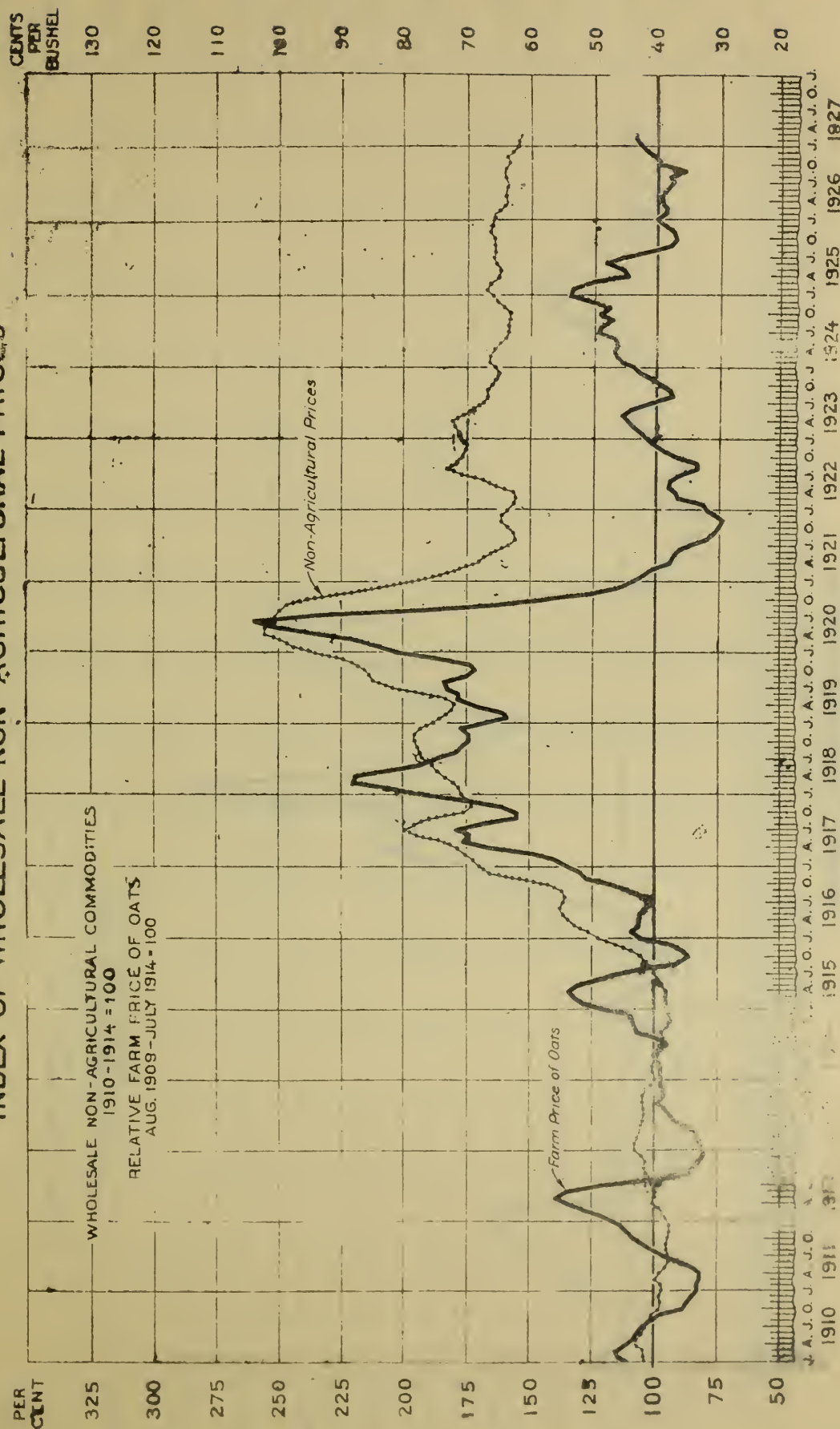
FARM PRICES OF CORN



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Chart 2.

FARM PRICES OF OATS AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 3.

FARM PRICES OF BARLEY AND

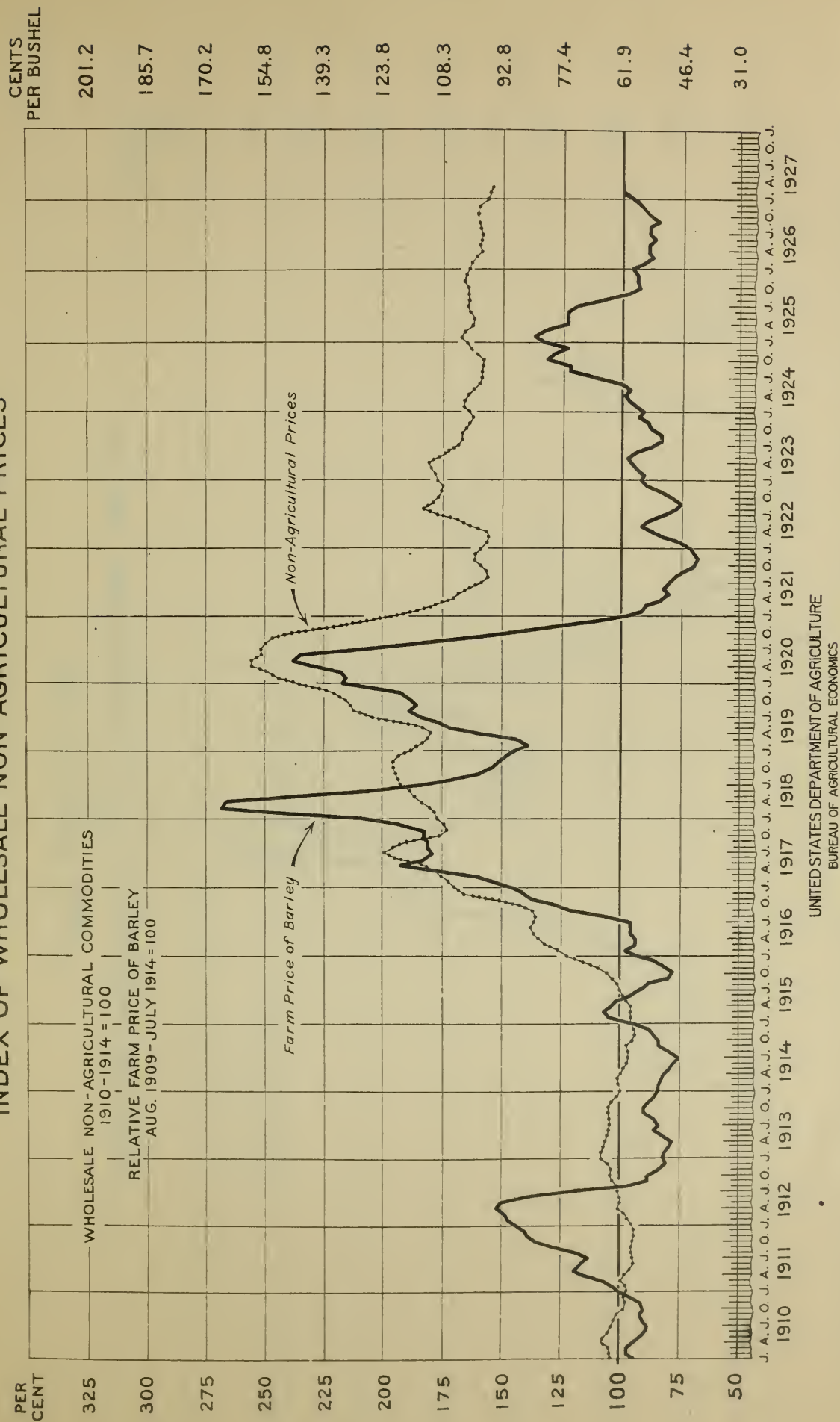
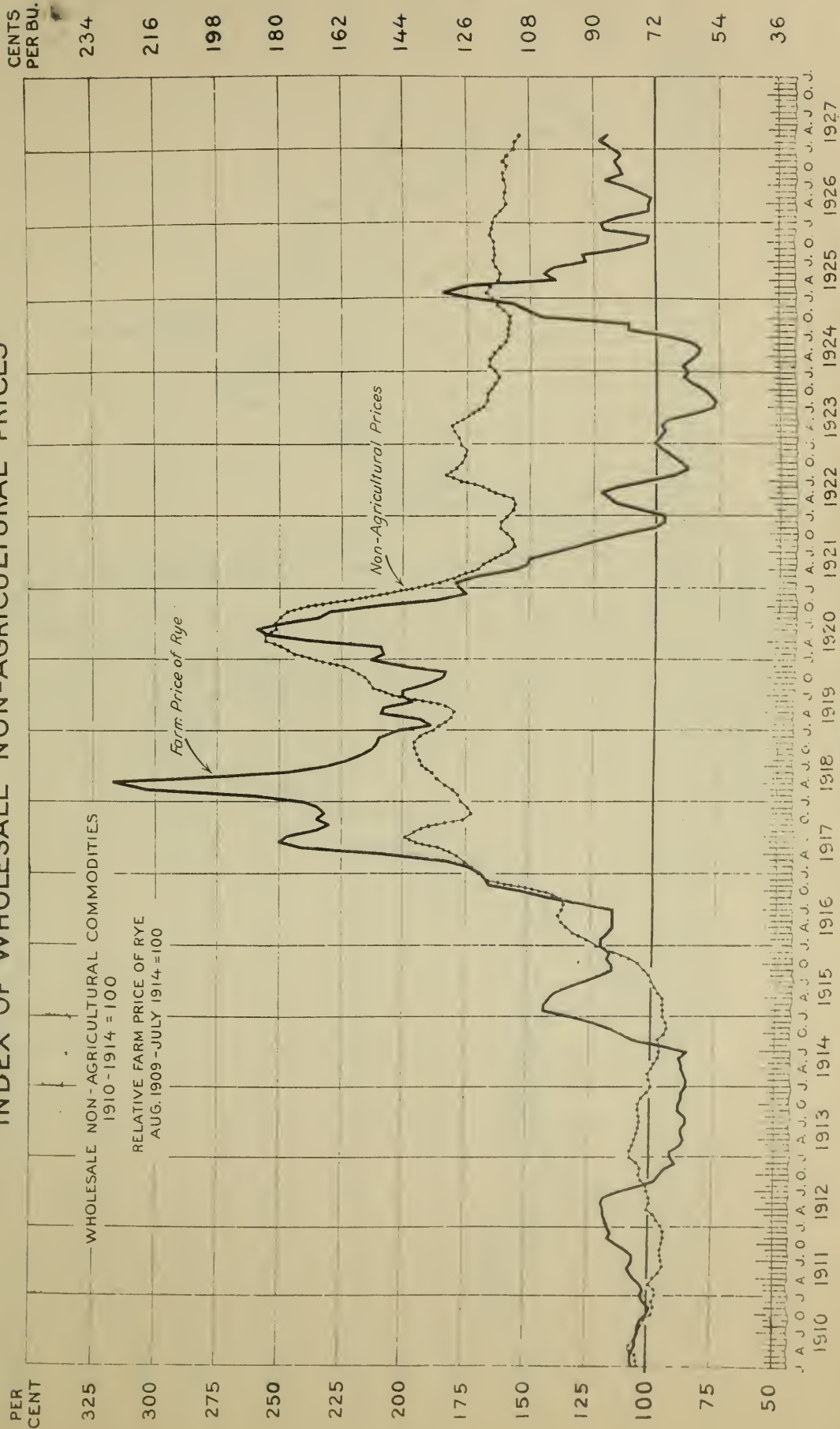


Chart 4.

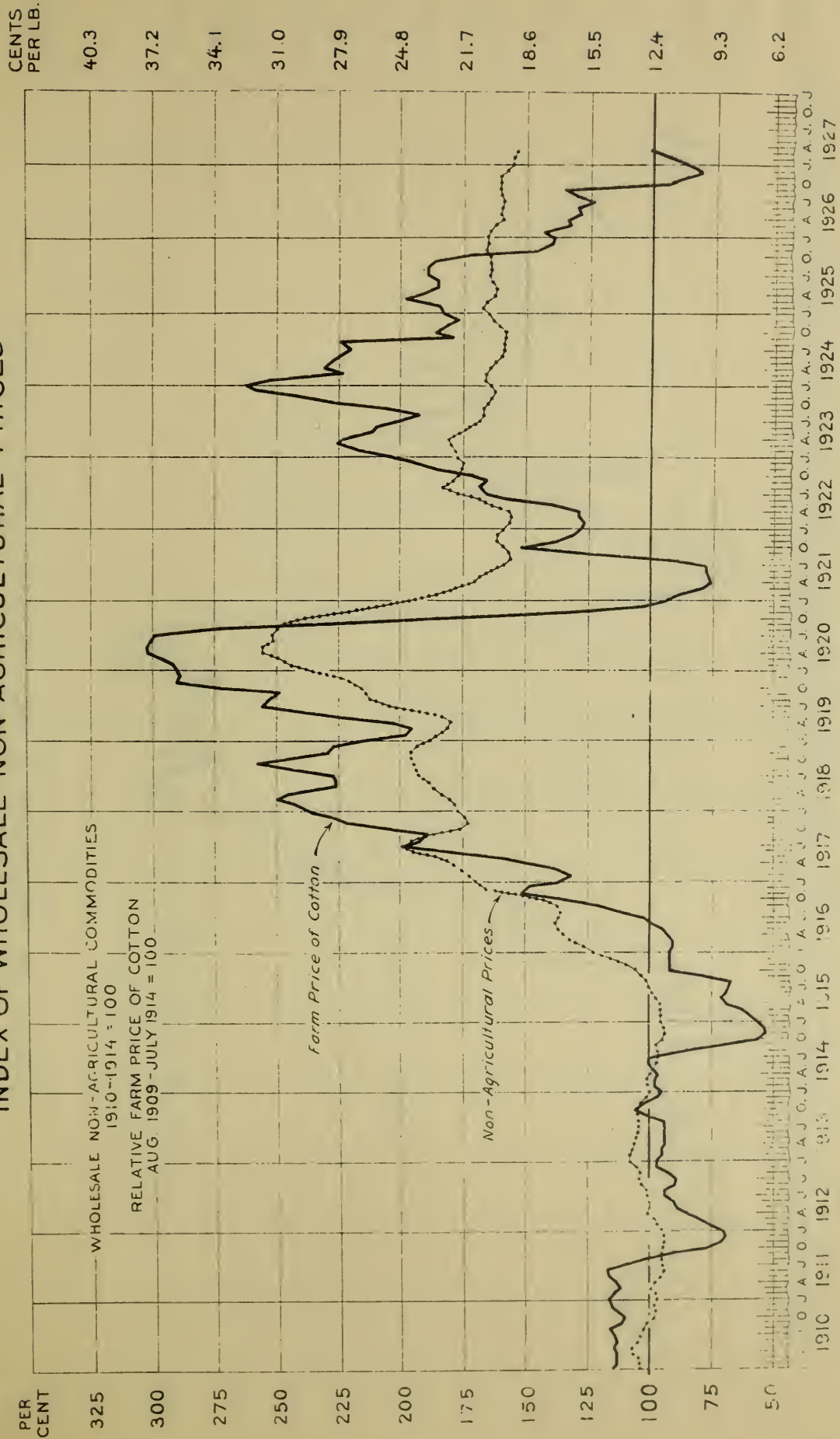
FARM PRICES OF RYE AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 5.

FARM PRICES OF COTTON AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 6.

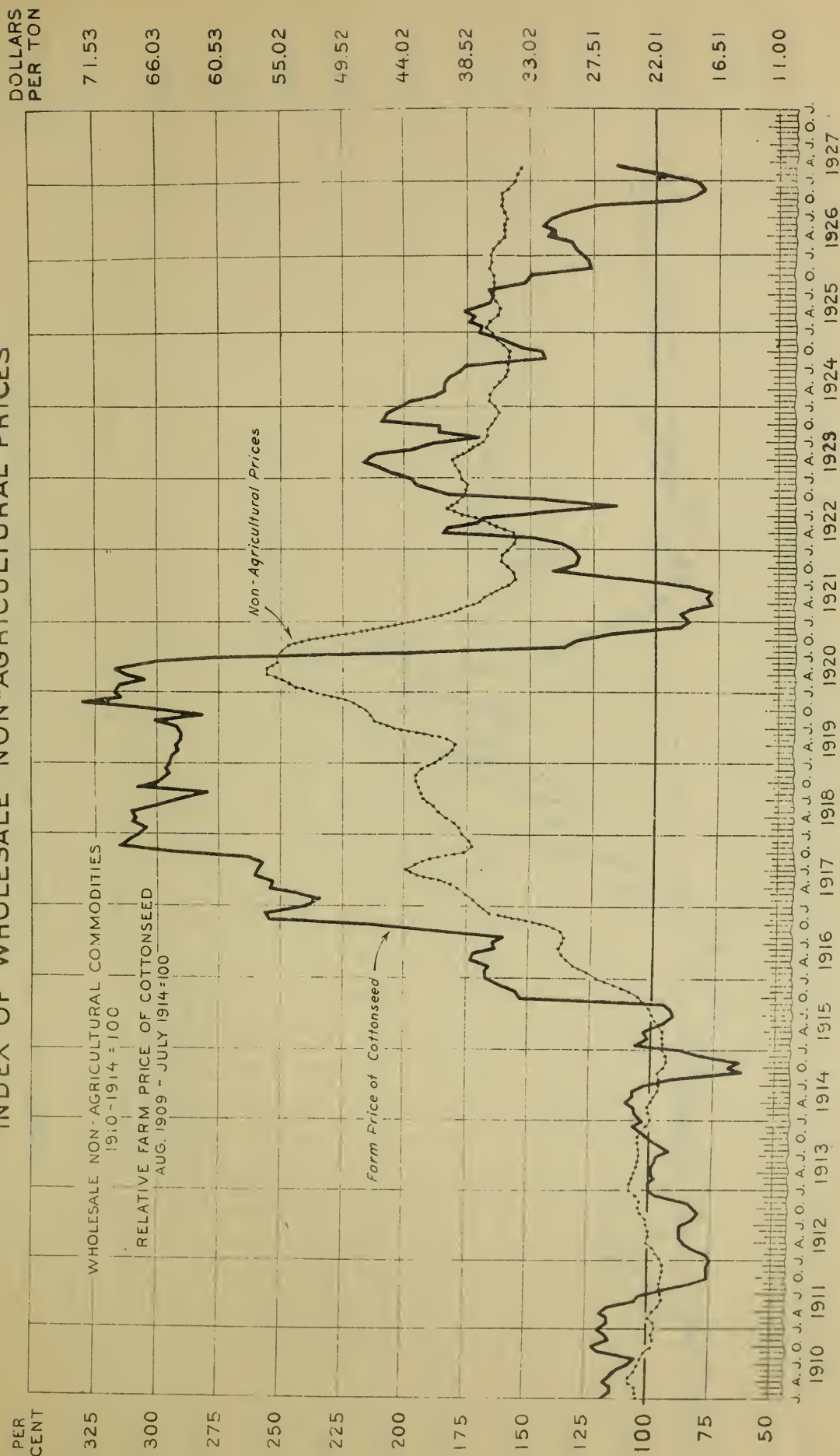
1880



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OF THE
MUSEUM
OF
COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY
AND
ANATOMY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

1880

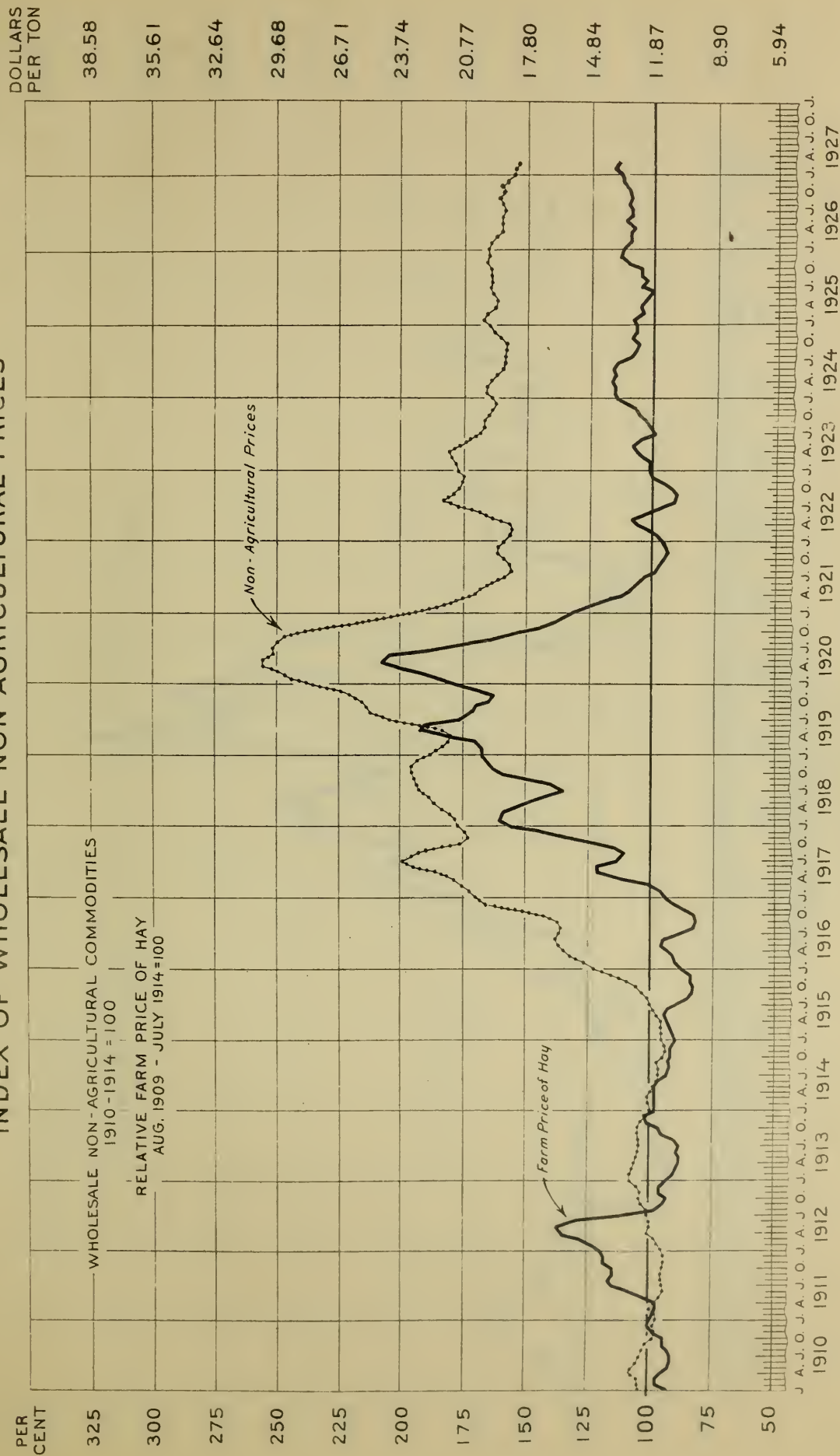
FARM PRICES OF COTTONSEED AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 7.

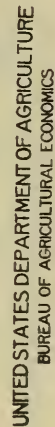
FARM PRICES OF HAY AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 8.

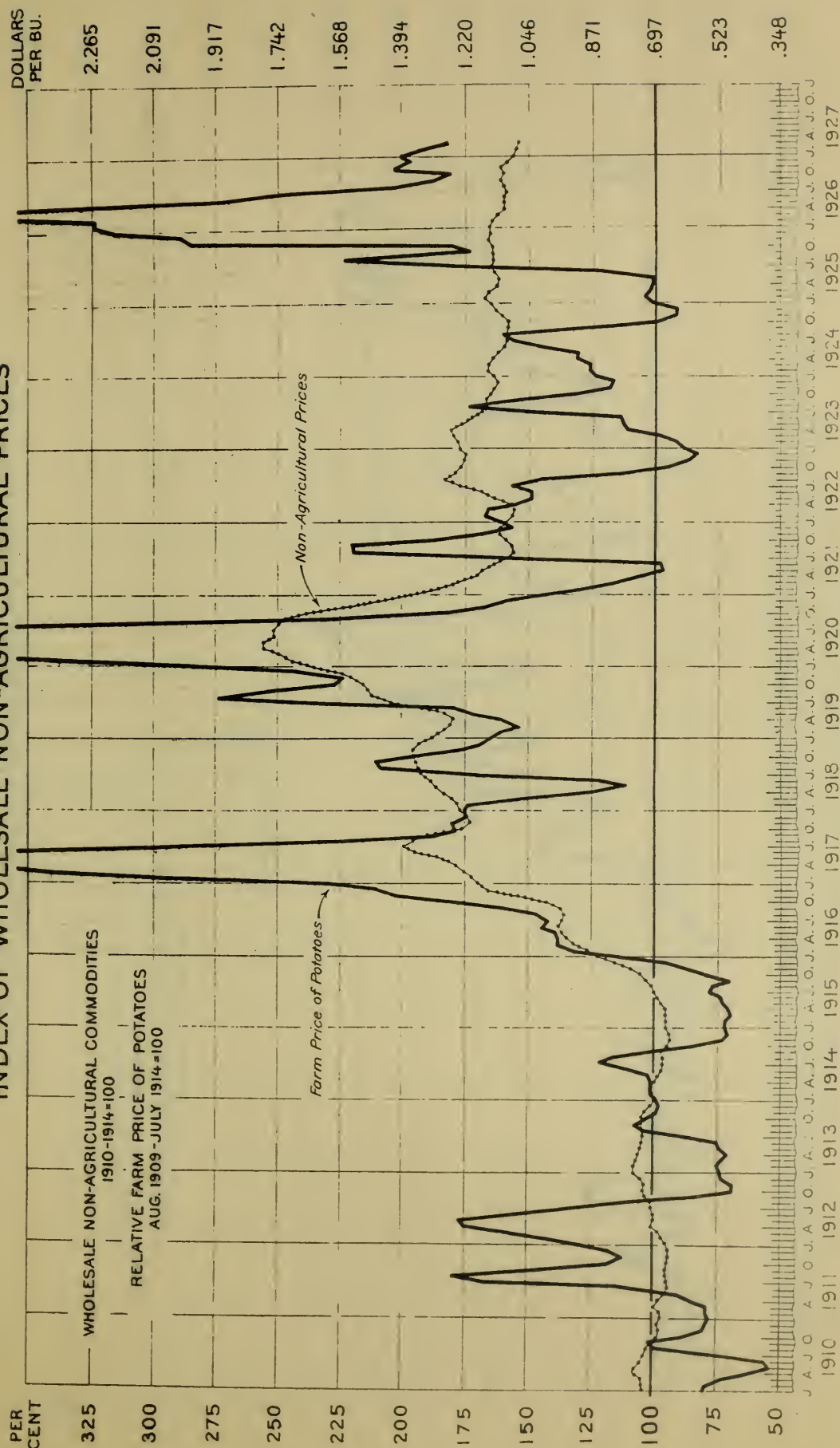
INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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FARM PRICES OF POTATOES AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 10.

STATION TO STATION MAP

INDEX TO STATION MAP

STATION

285.5

180.5

718.1

547.1

688.1

182.1

182.1

182.1

182.1

182.1

182.1

STATION TO STATION MAP

STATION TO STATION MAP

285

180

718

547

688

182

182

182

182

182

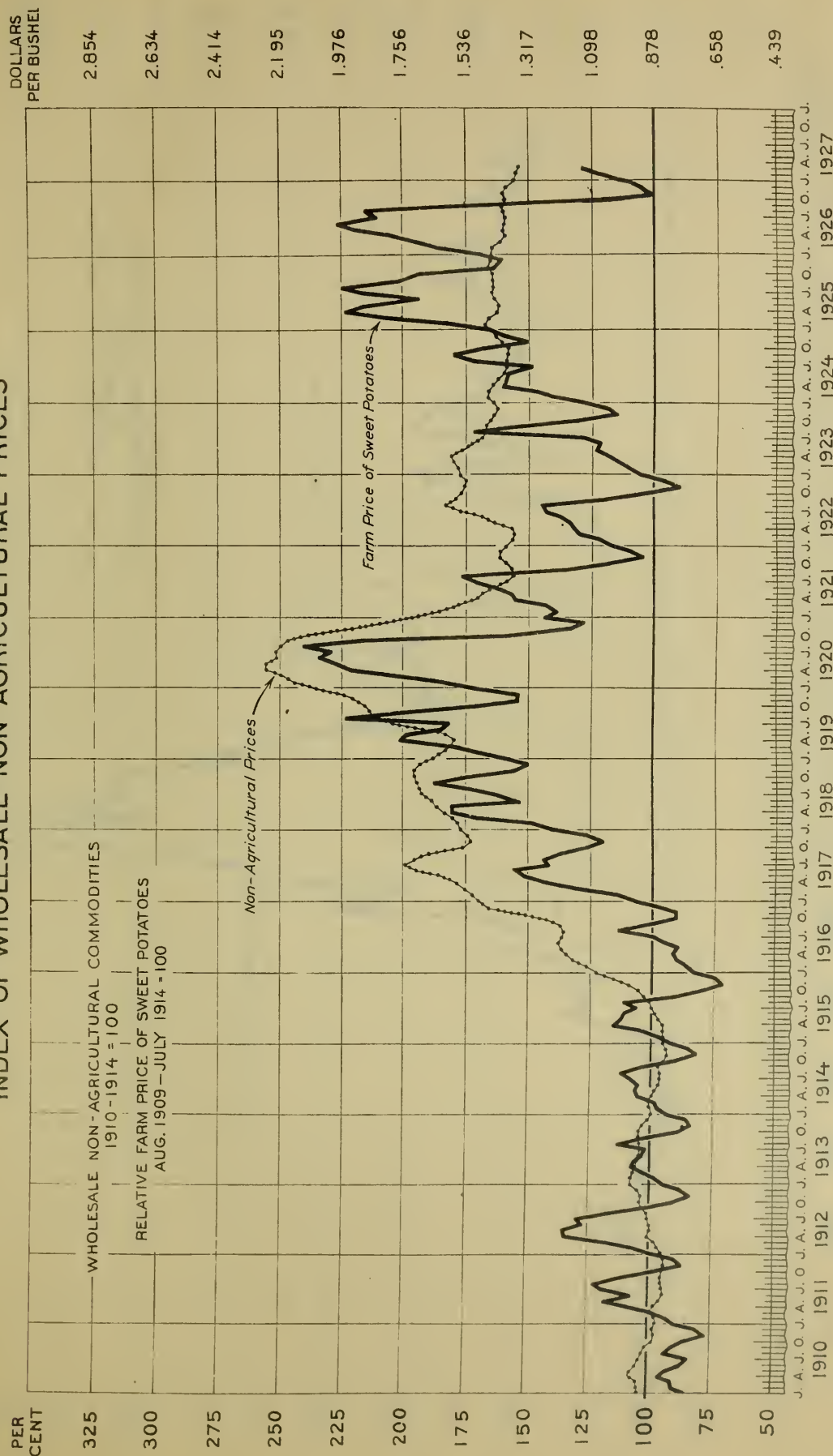
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182

182

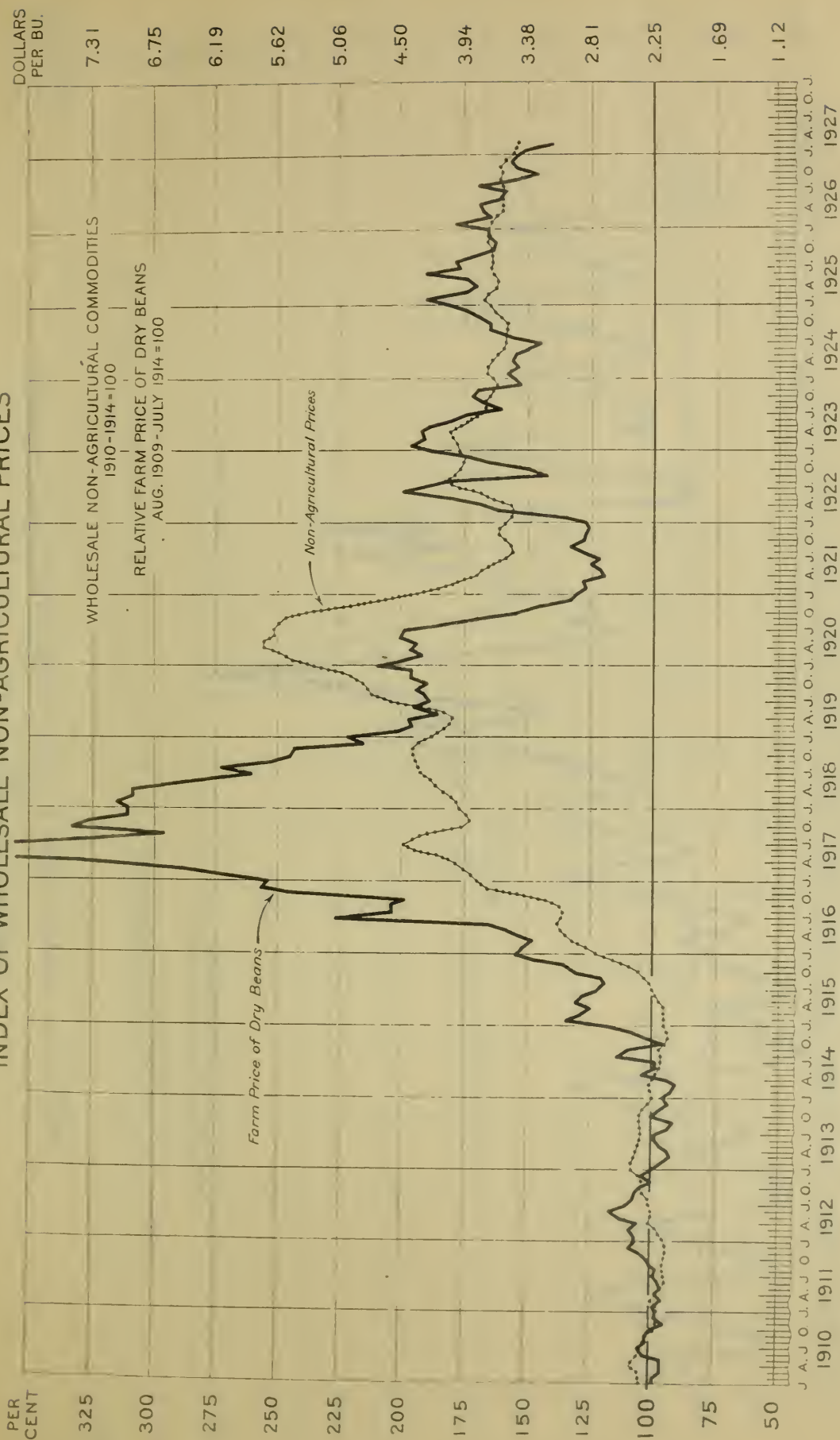
182

FARM PRICES OF SWEET POTATOES AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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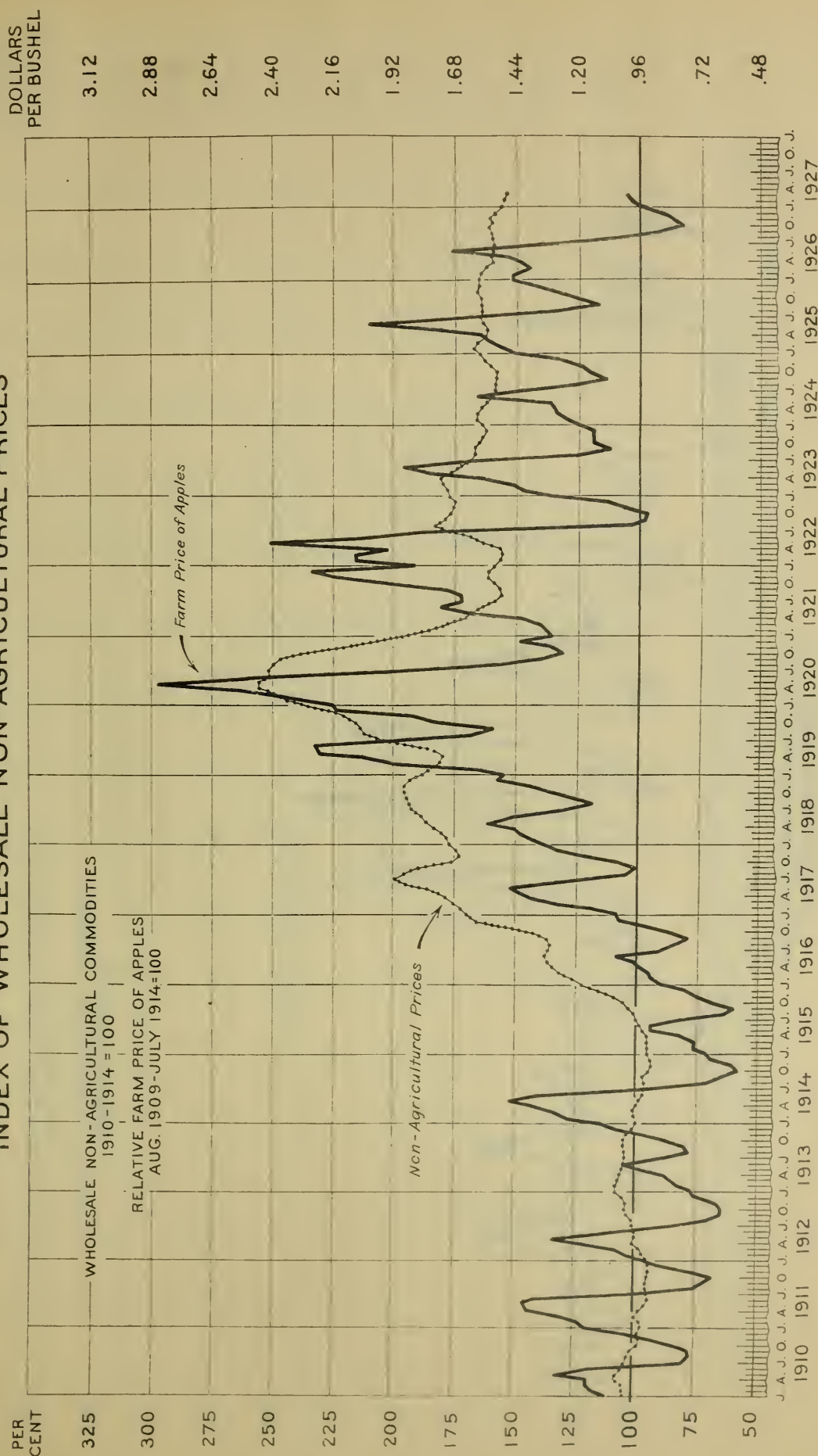
Chart 11.

FARM PRICES OF DRY BEANS
AND

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Chart 12.

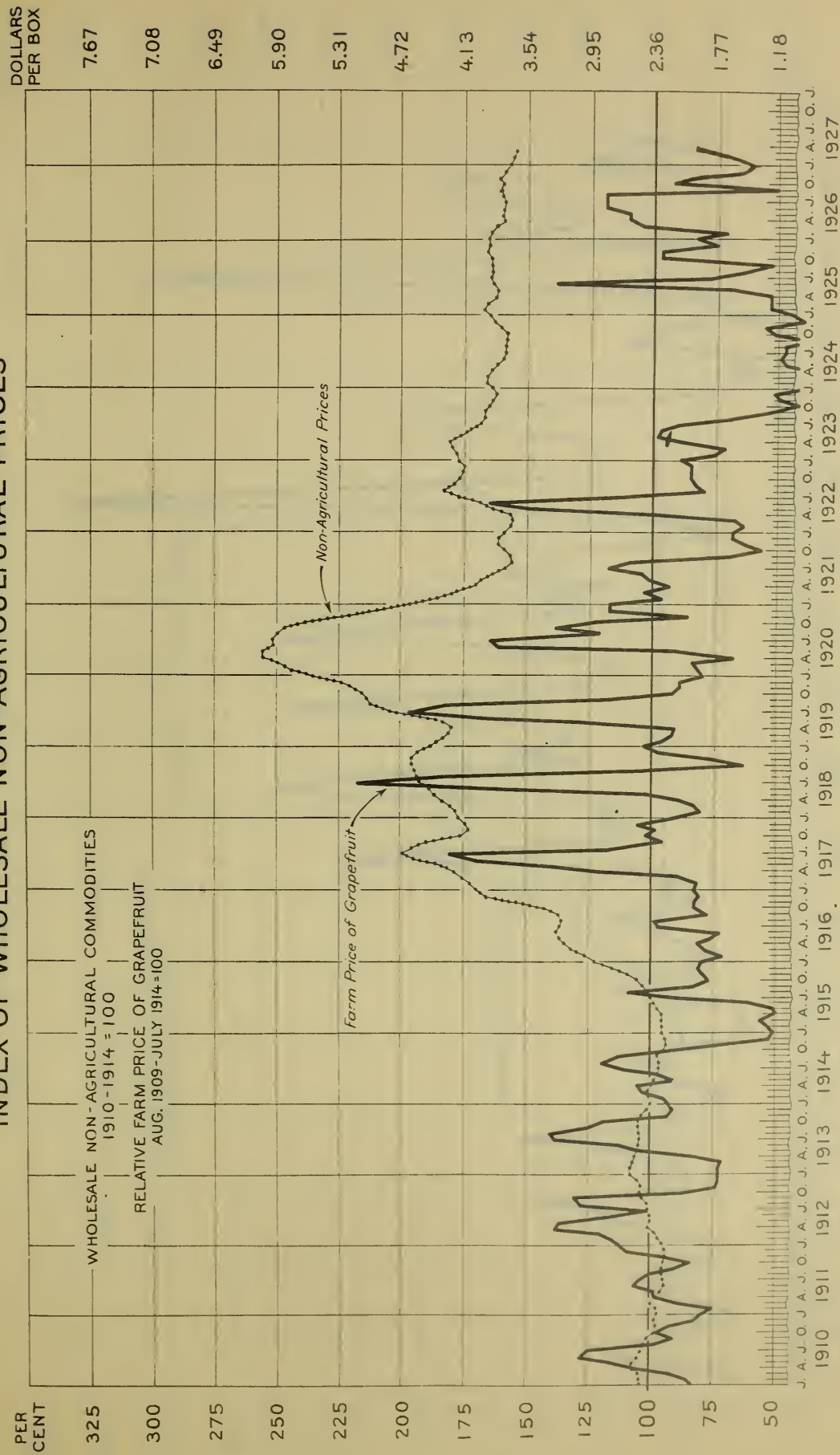
FARM PRICES OF APPLES AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 13.

FARM PRICES OF GRAPEFRUIT AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES

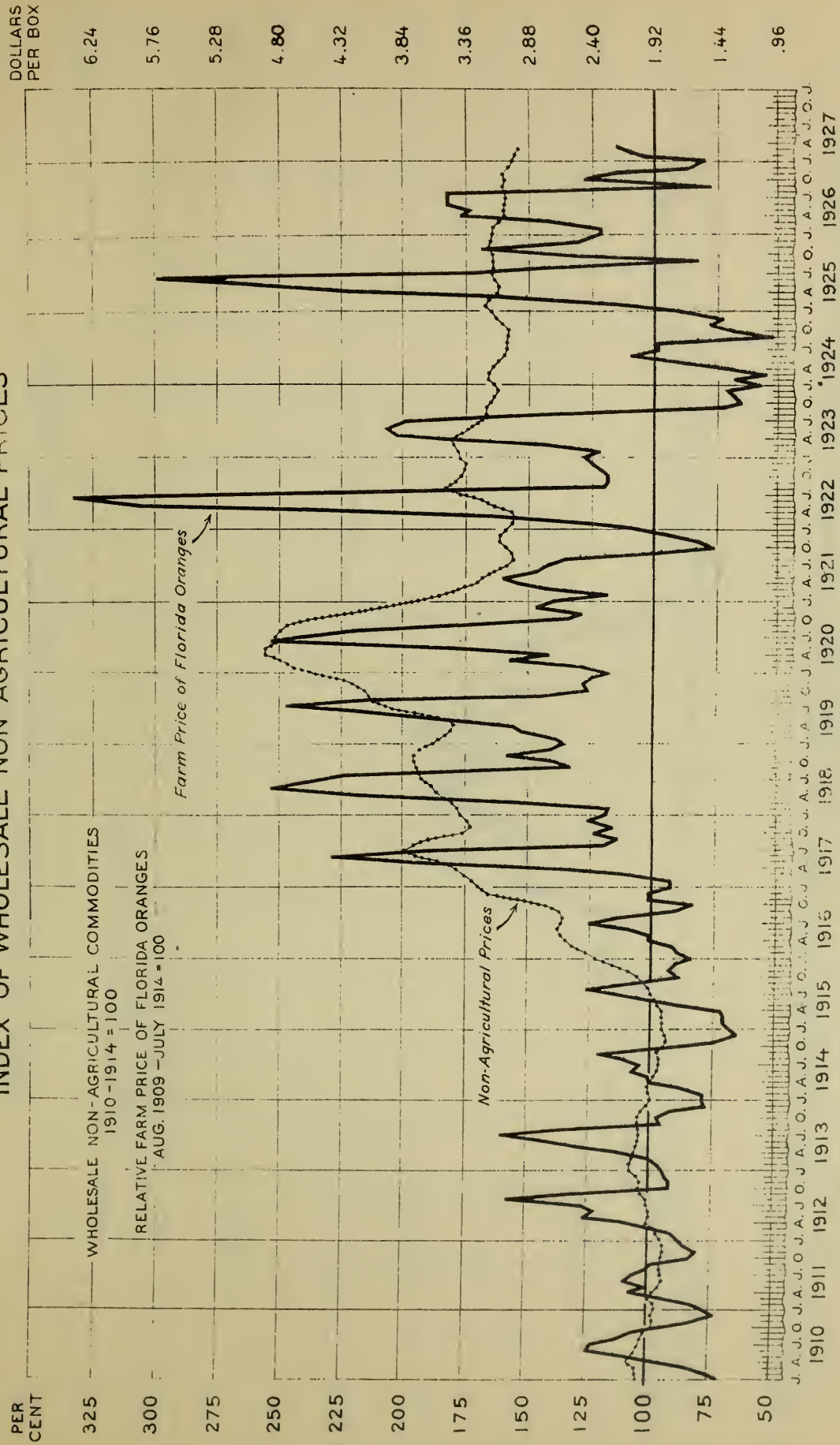


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Chart 14.

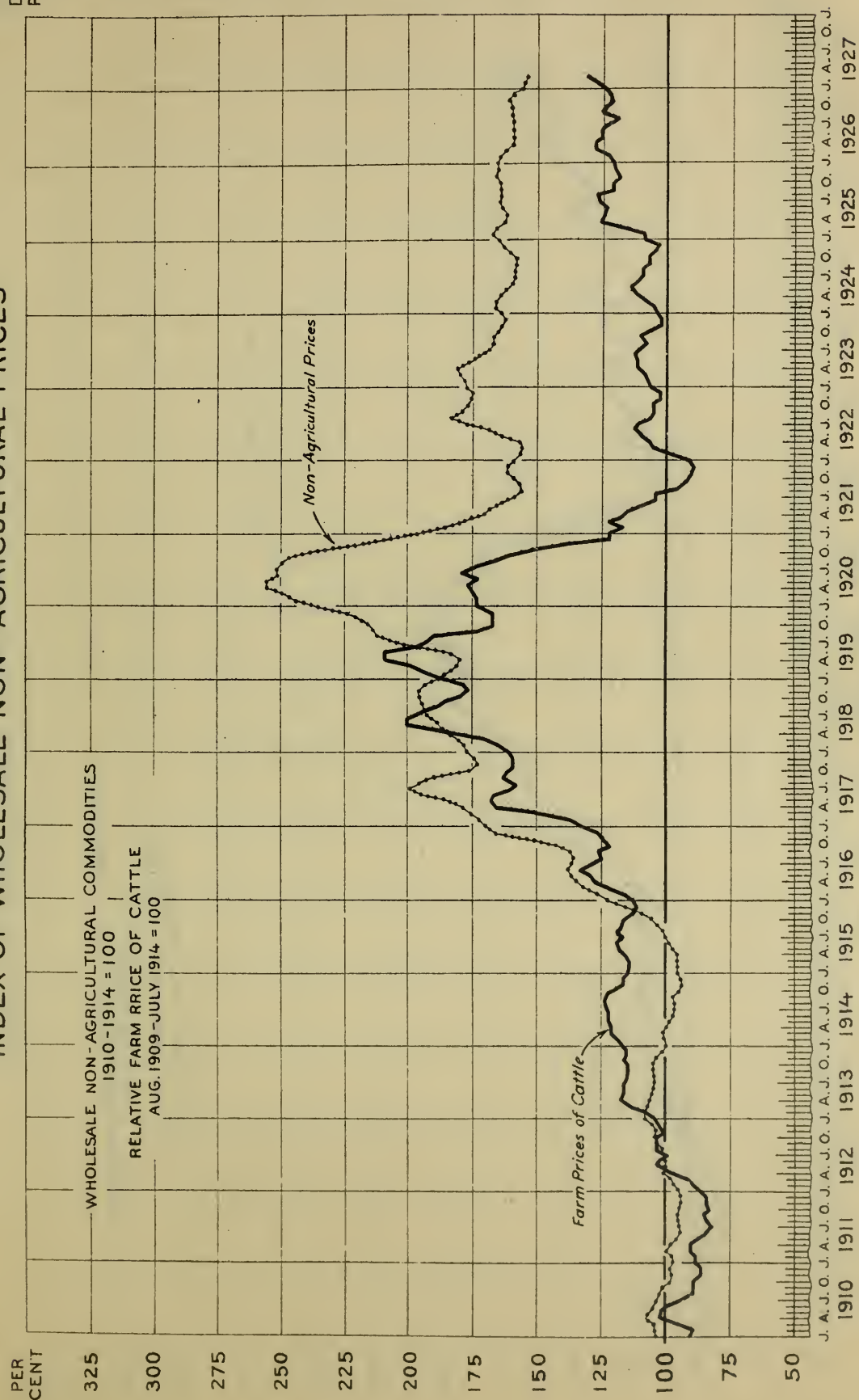
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LIBRARY

FARM PRICES OF FLORIDA ORANGES AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



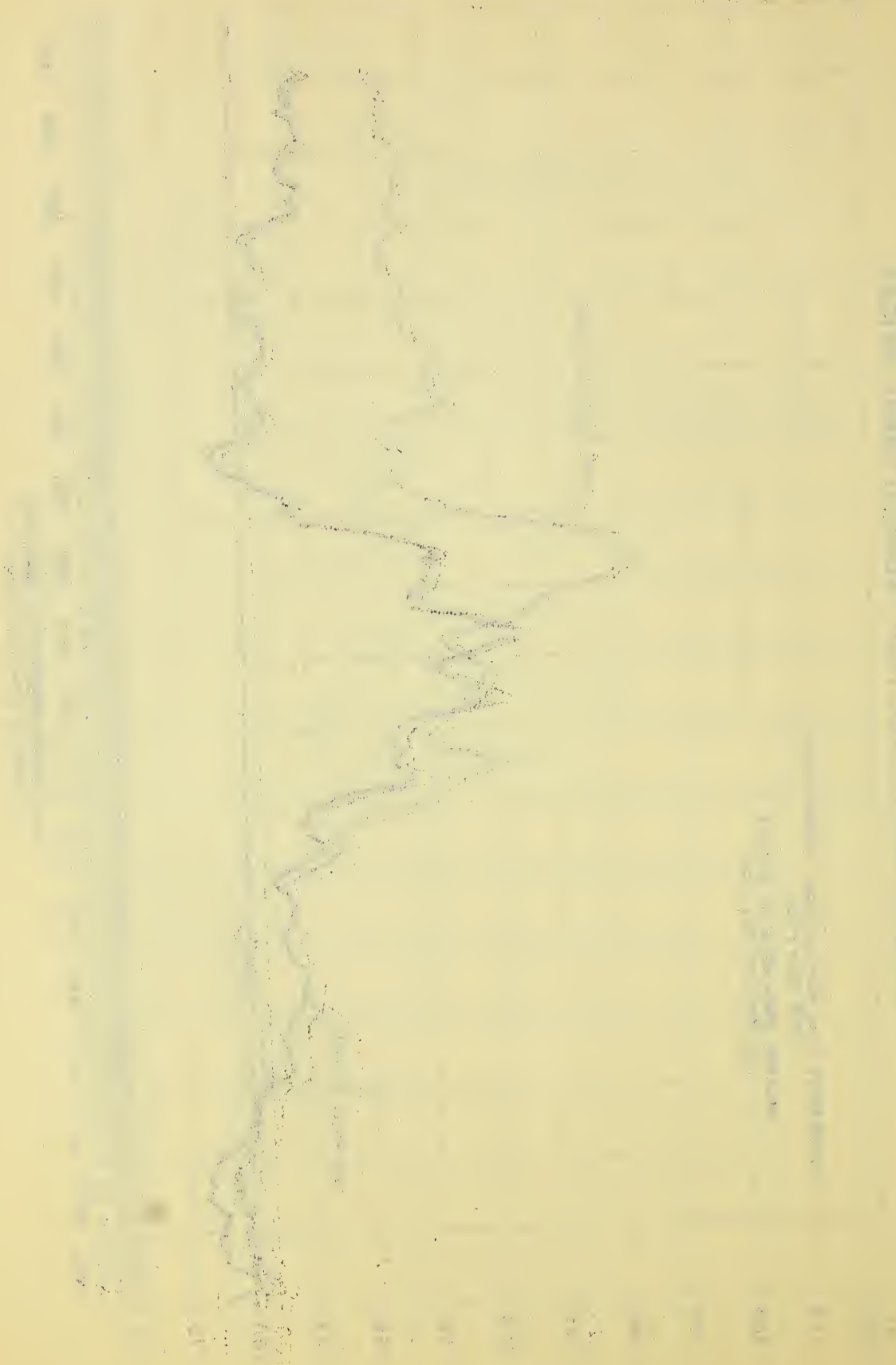
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Chart 15.

DOLLARS
PER CWT.

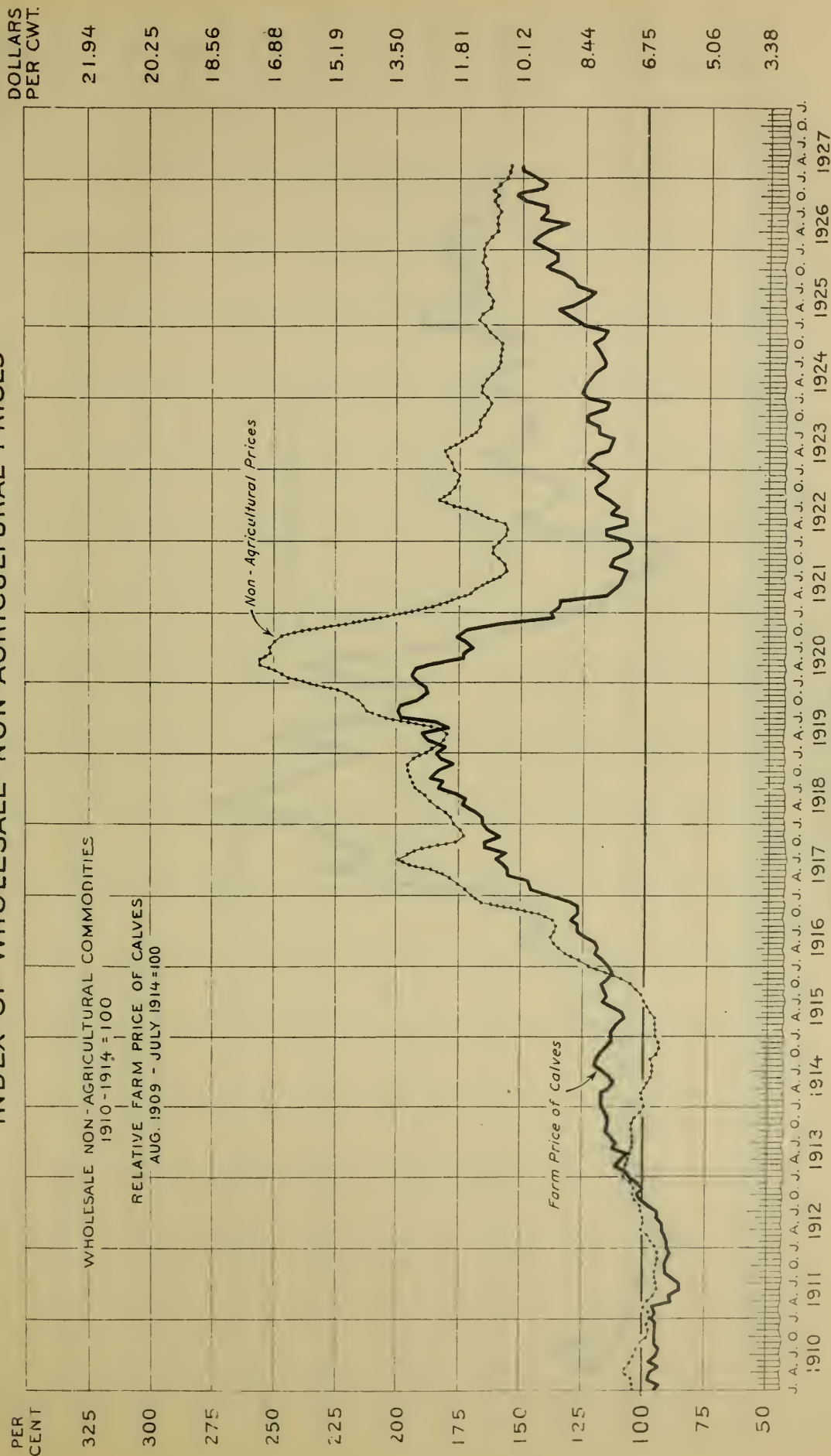
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Chart 16.



180

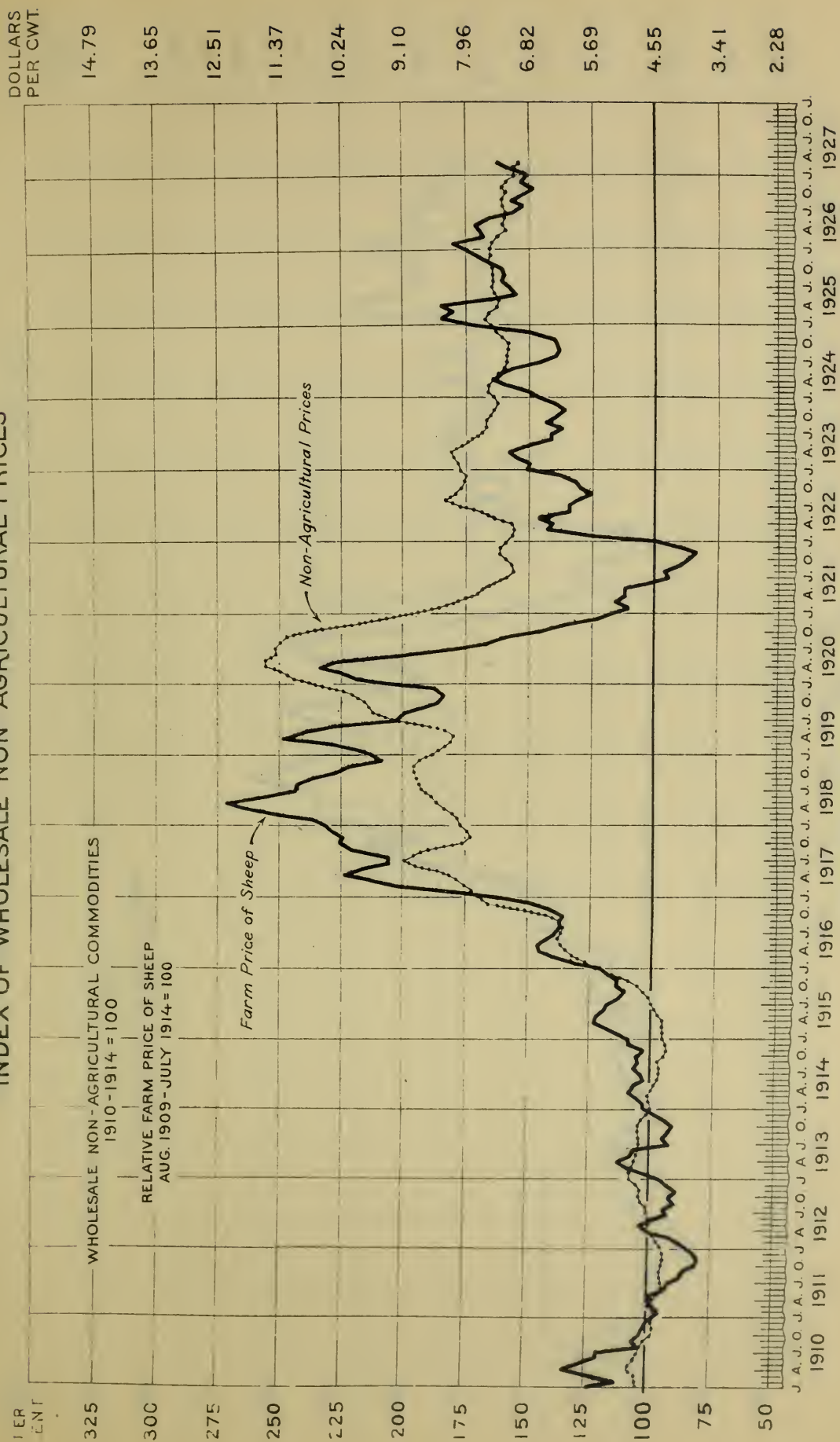
FARM PRICES OF CALVES AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 17.

FARM PRICES OF SHEEP AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 18.

FARM PRICES OF HOGS AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES

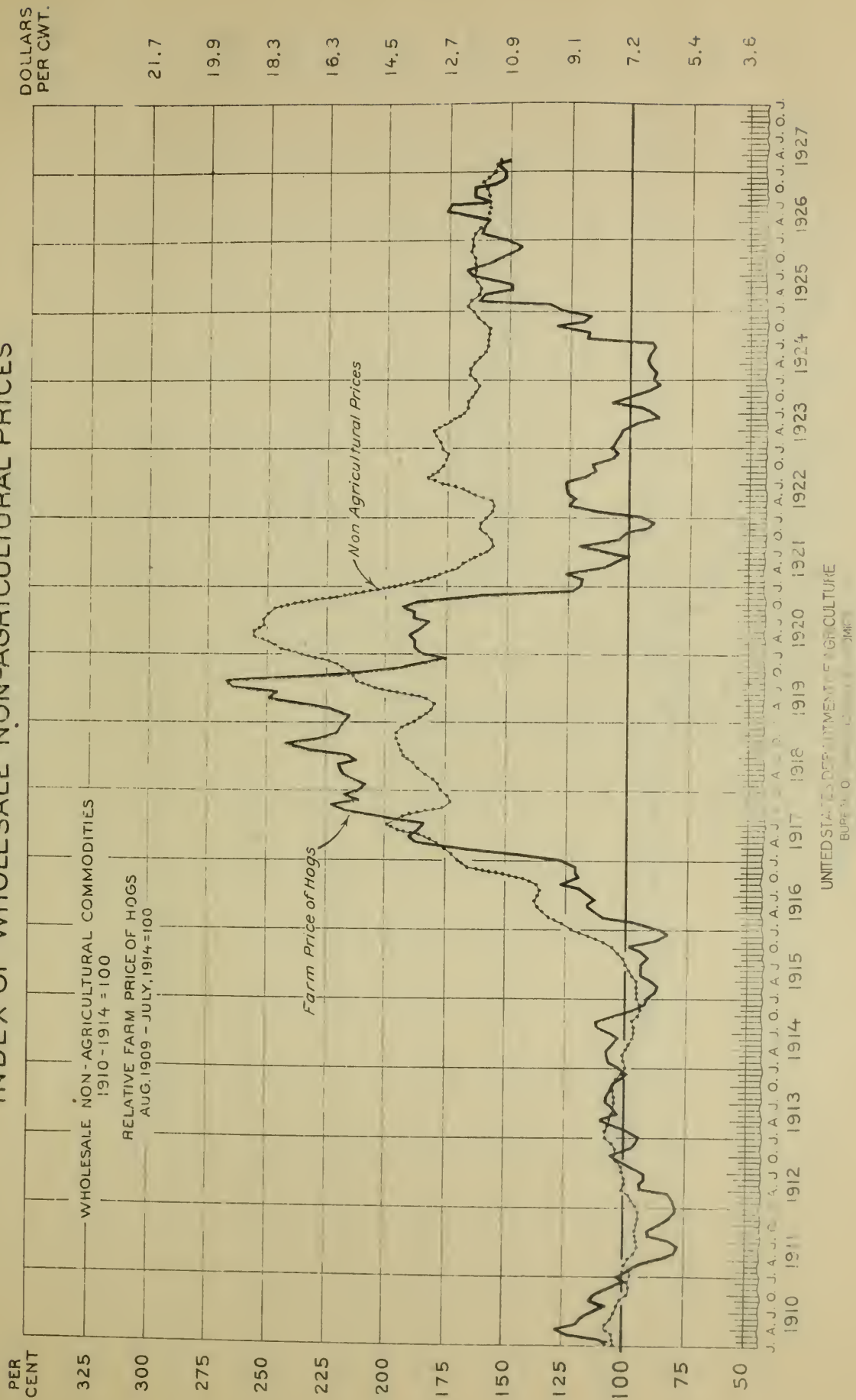
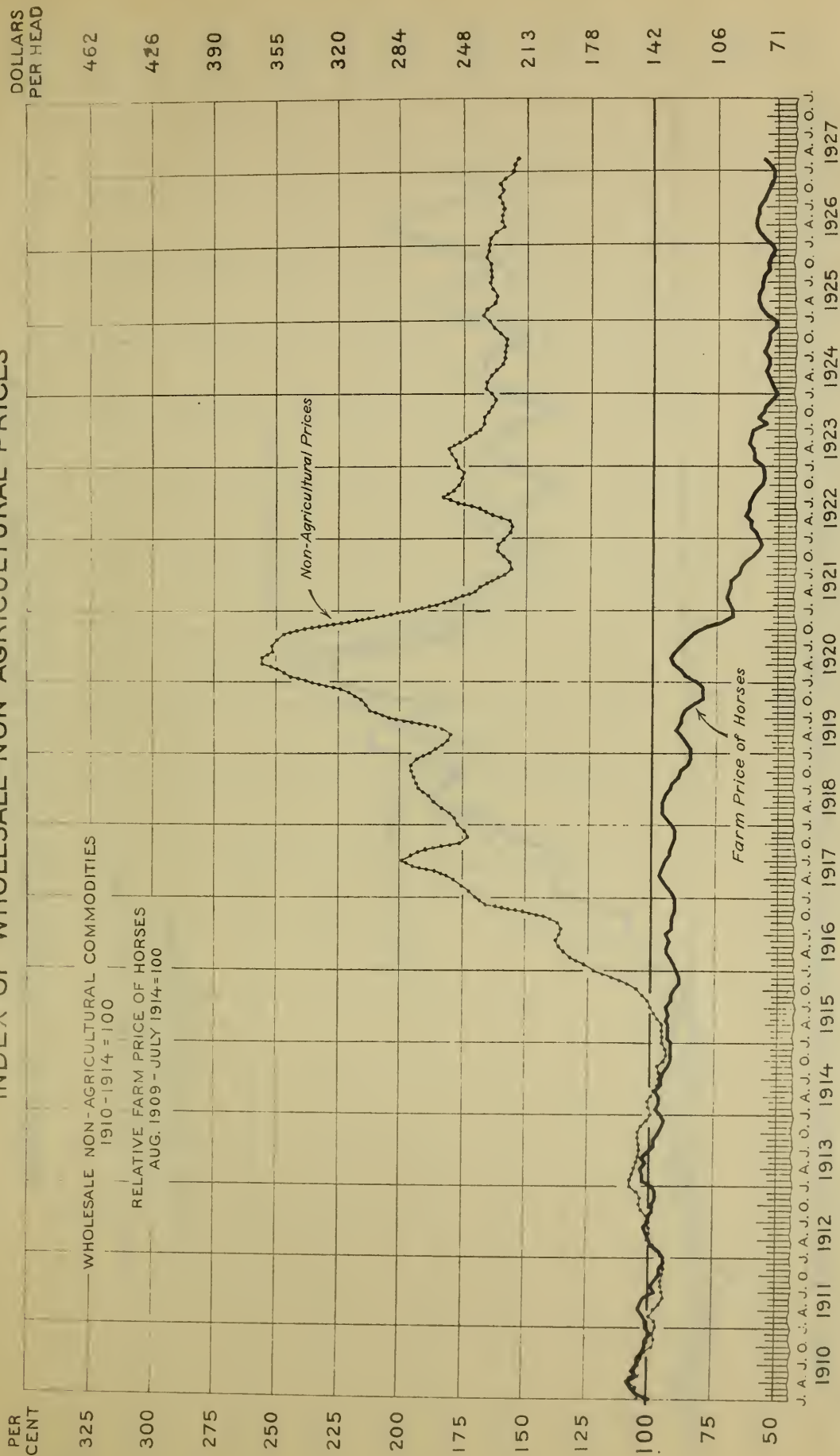


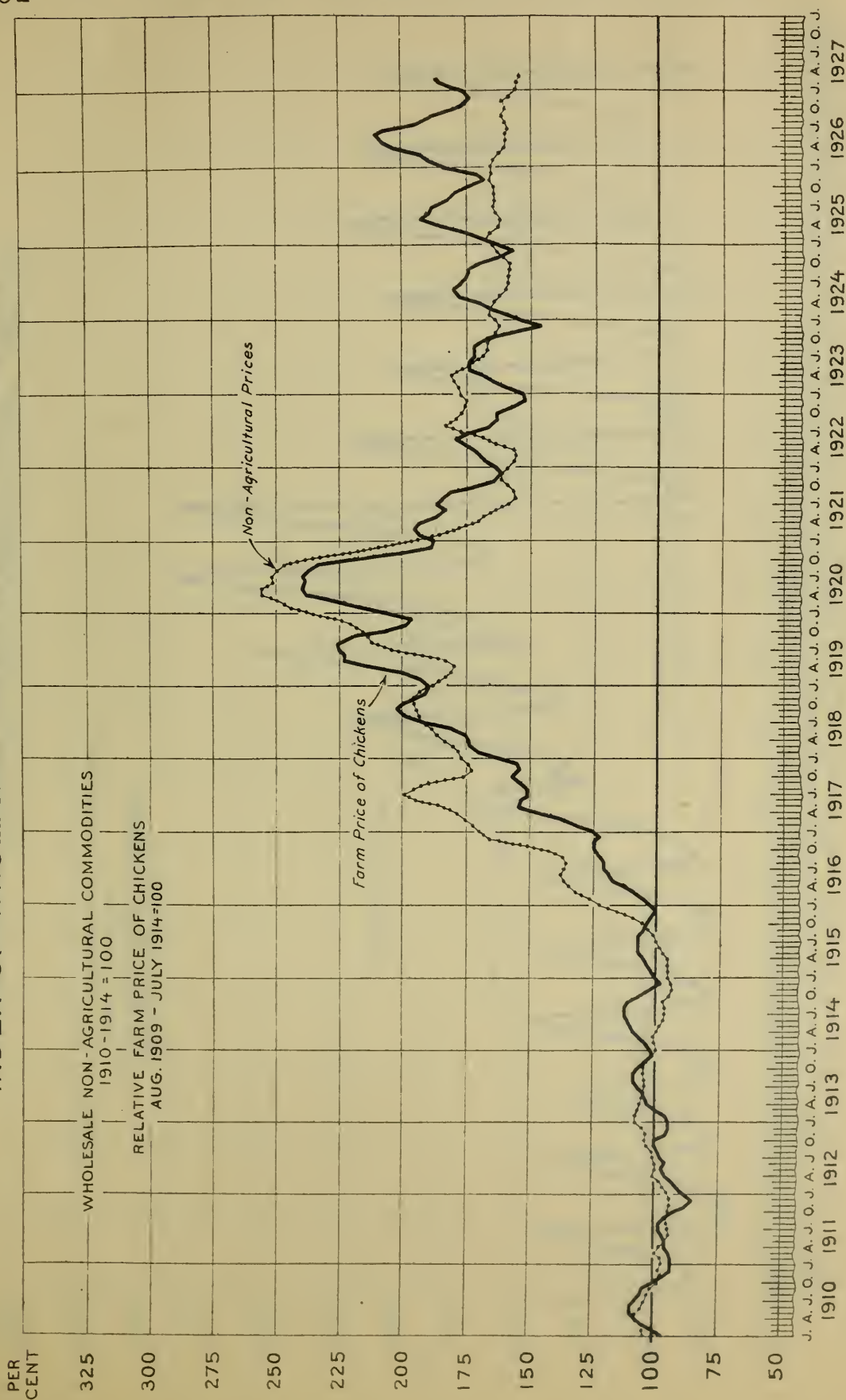
Chart 20.

FARM PRICES OF HORSES AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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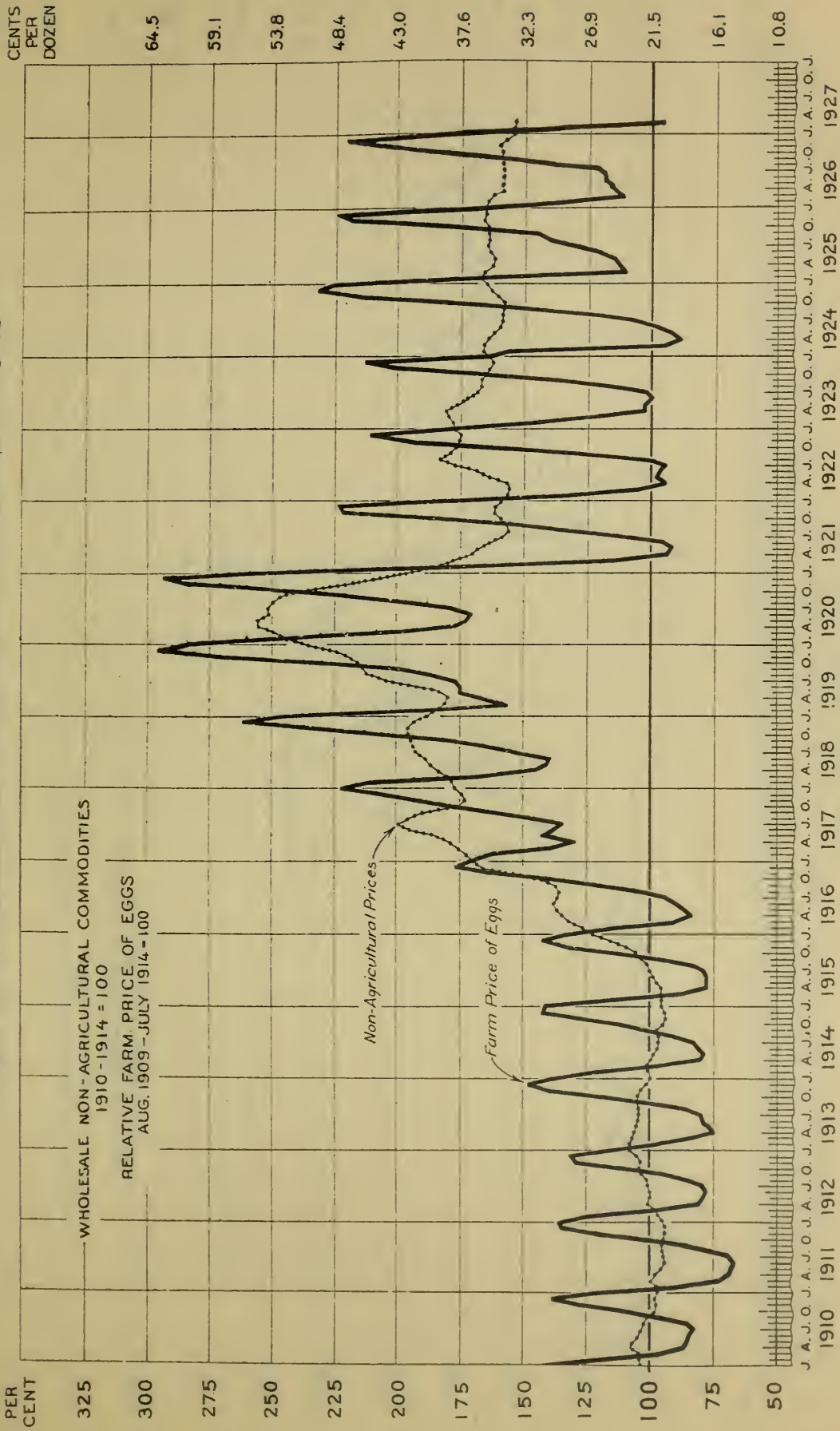
Chart 21.

CENTS
PER LB.

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Chart 22.

FARM PRICES OF EGGS



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Chart 23.

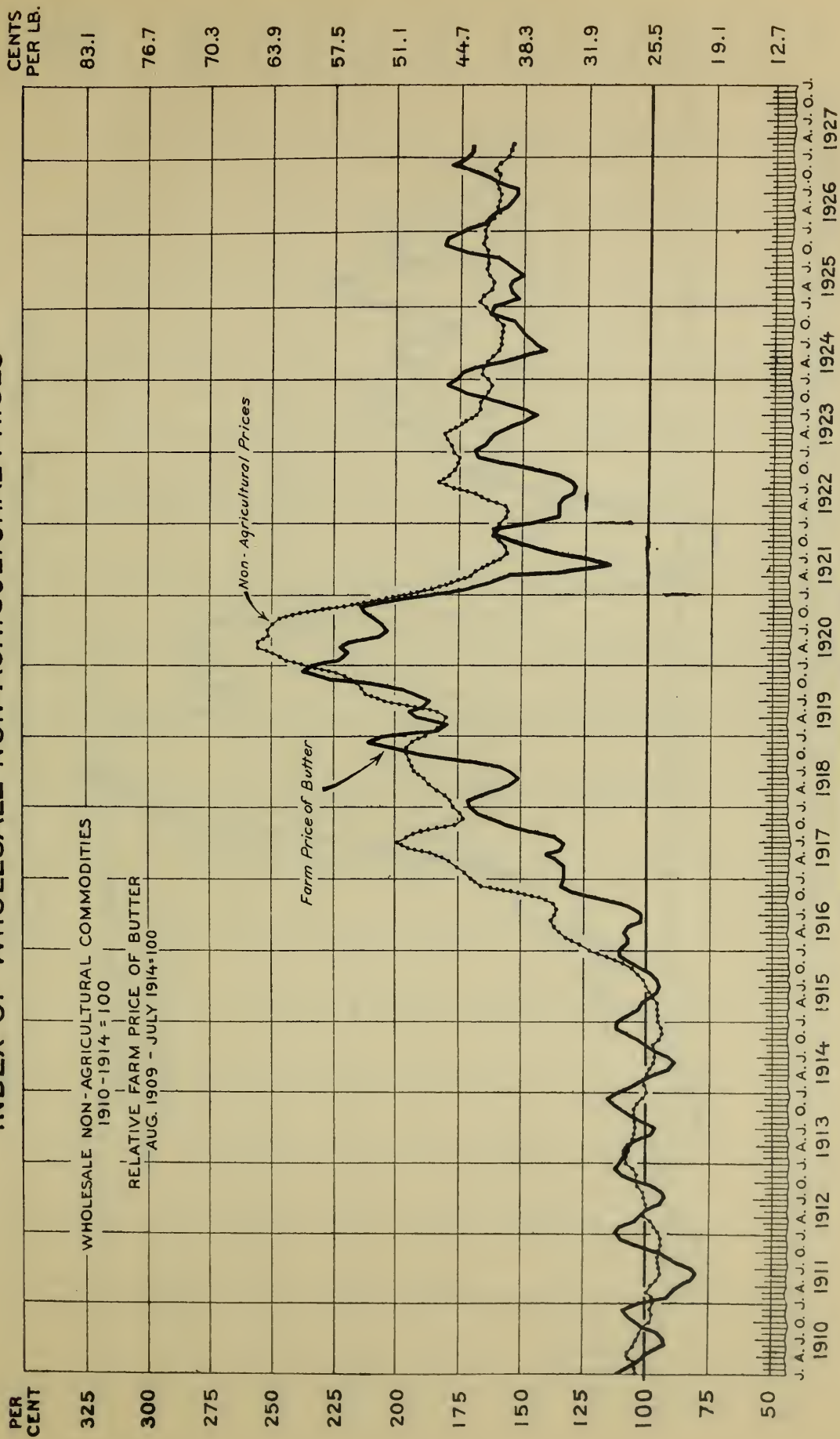
10-10-10



10-10-10

10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10 10-10-10

FARM PRICES OF BUTTER AND

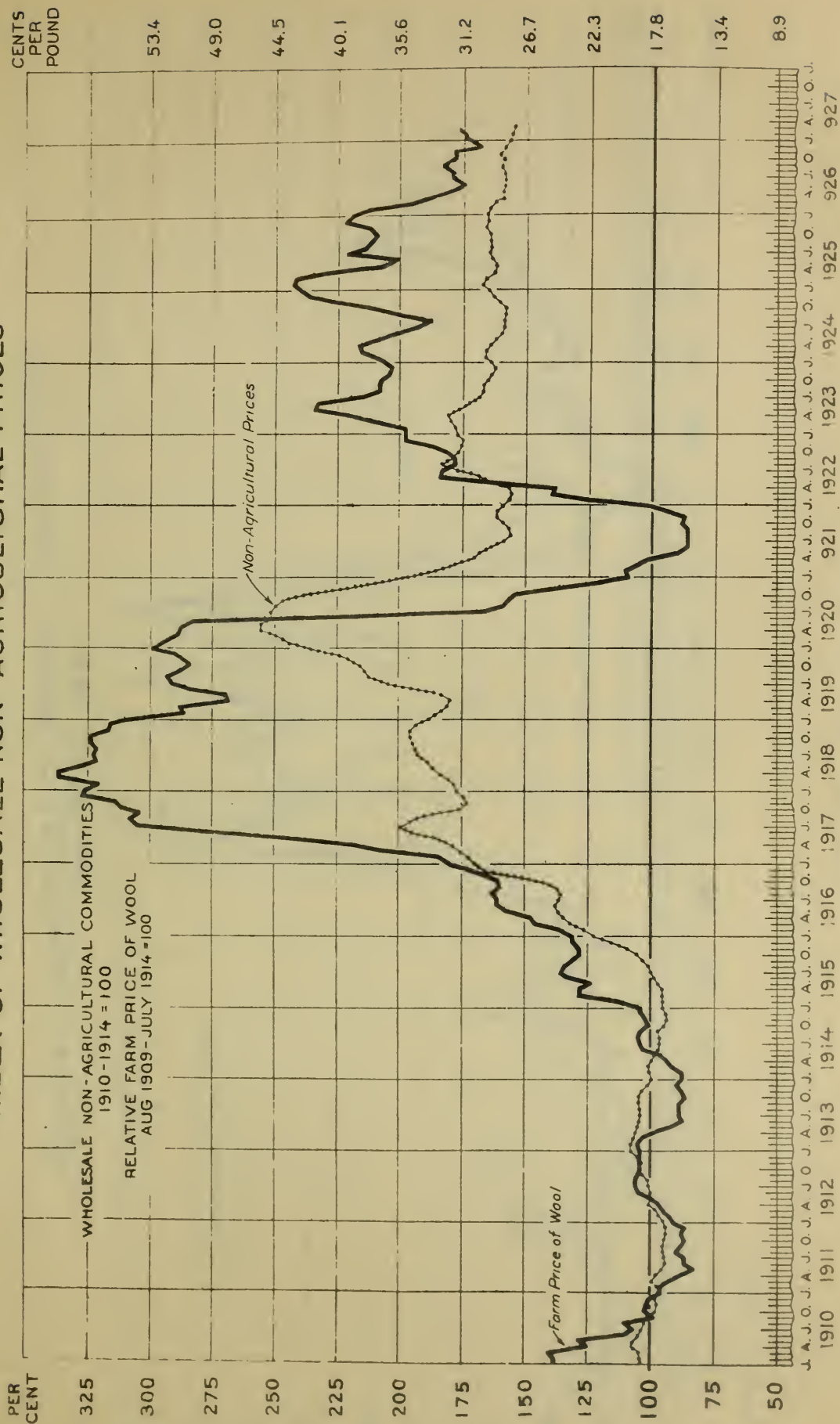


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Chart 24.

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FARM PRICES OF WOOL AND INDEX OF WHOLESALE NON-AGRICULTURAL PRICES



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Chart 25.

RELATIVE FARM PRICES OF WHEAT, CORN, AND OATS Jan. 1910 to Date

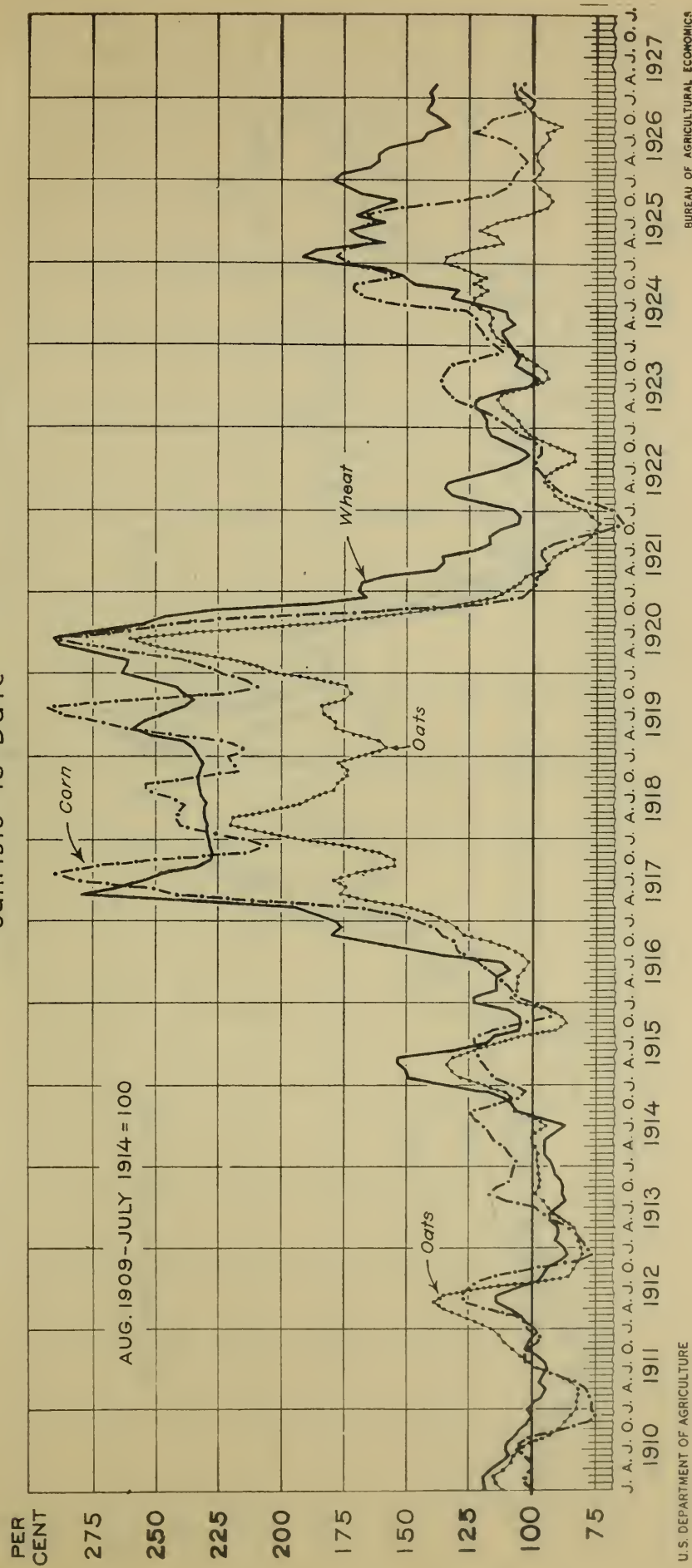
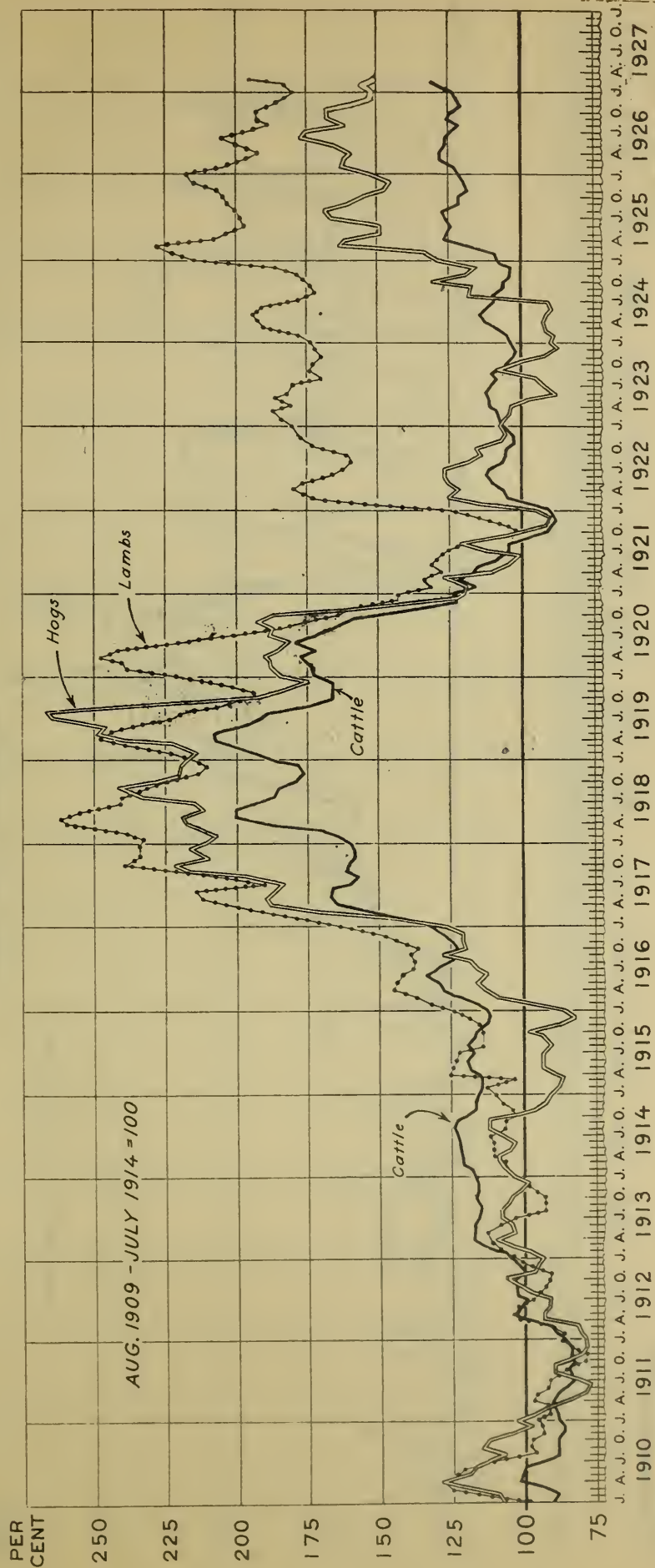


Chart 26.

RELATIVE FARM PRICES OF CATTLE, HOGS, AND LAMBS Jan. 1910 to Date

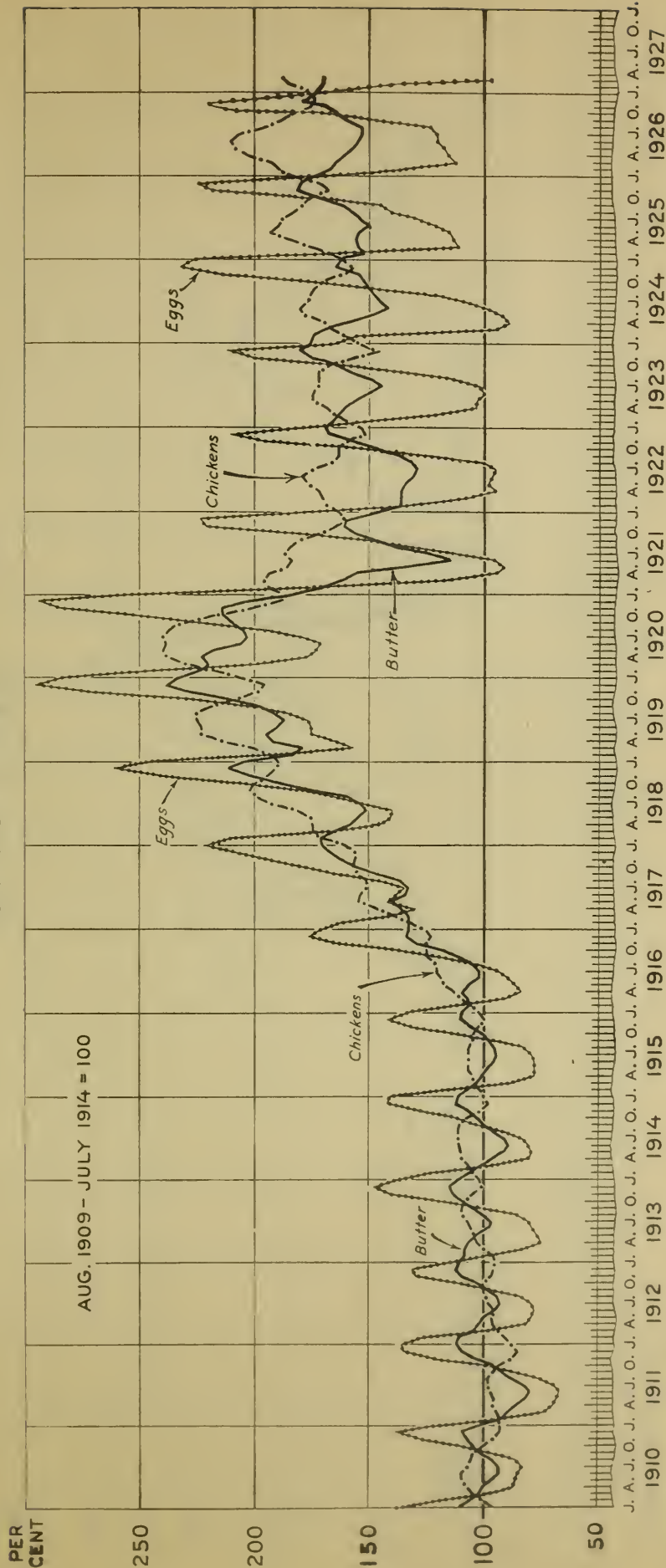


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Chart 27.

RELATIVE FARM PRICES OF BUTTER, CHICKENS, AND EGGS Jan. 1910 to Date



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INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES BY GROUPS

Jan. 1910 to Date

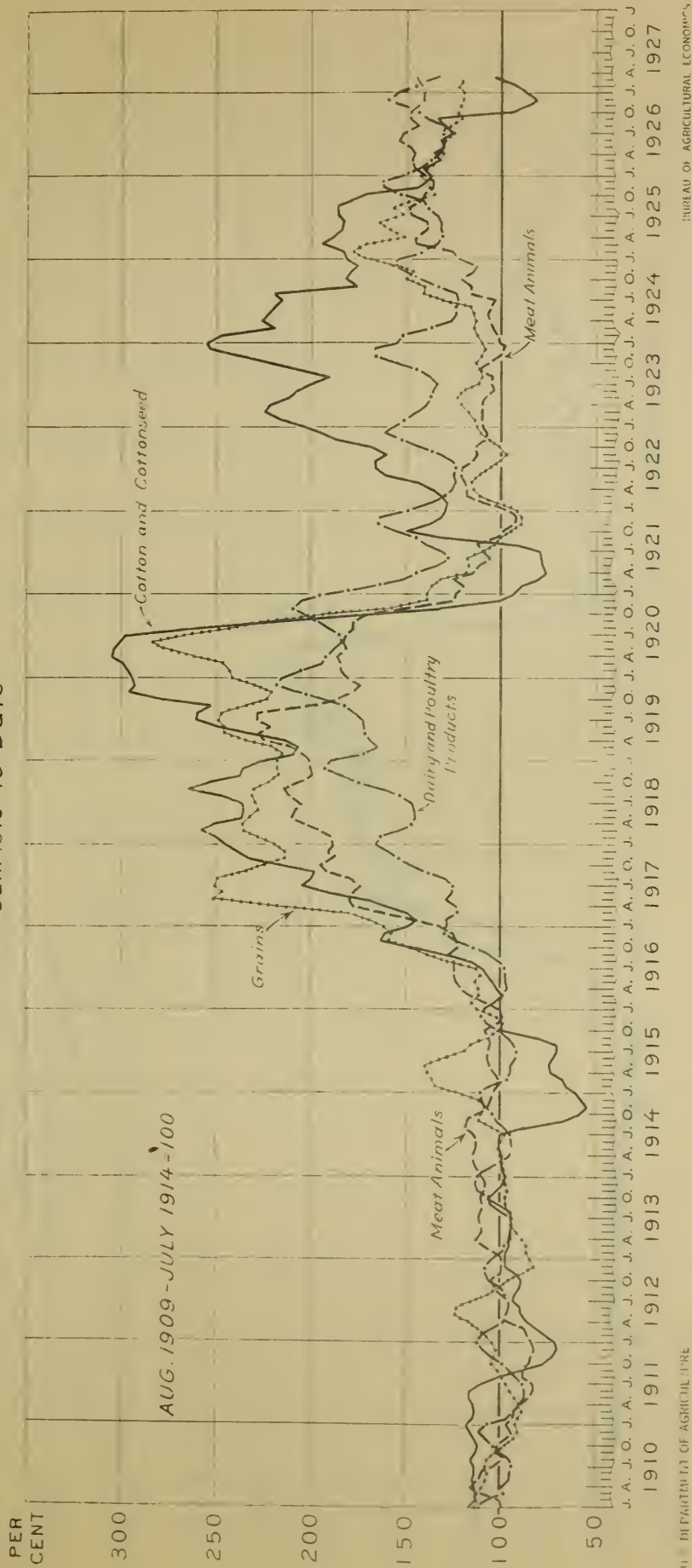
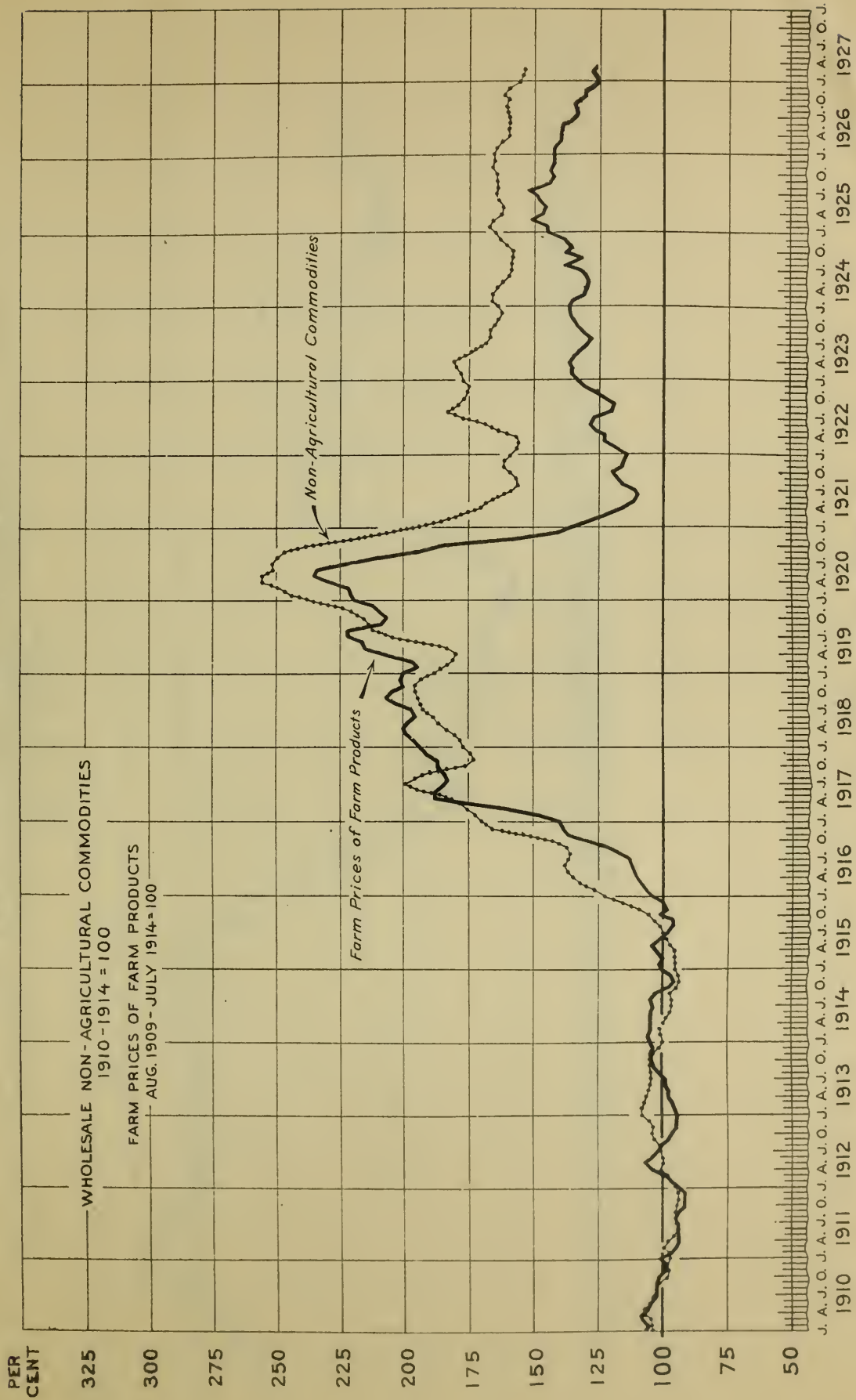


Chart 29.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



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RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF A DOLLAR IN EXCHANGE FOR COMMODITIES Jan. 1910 to Date

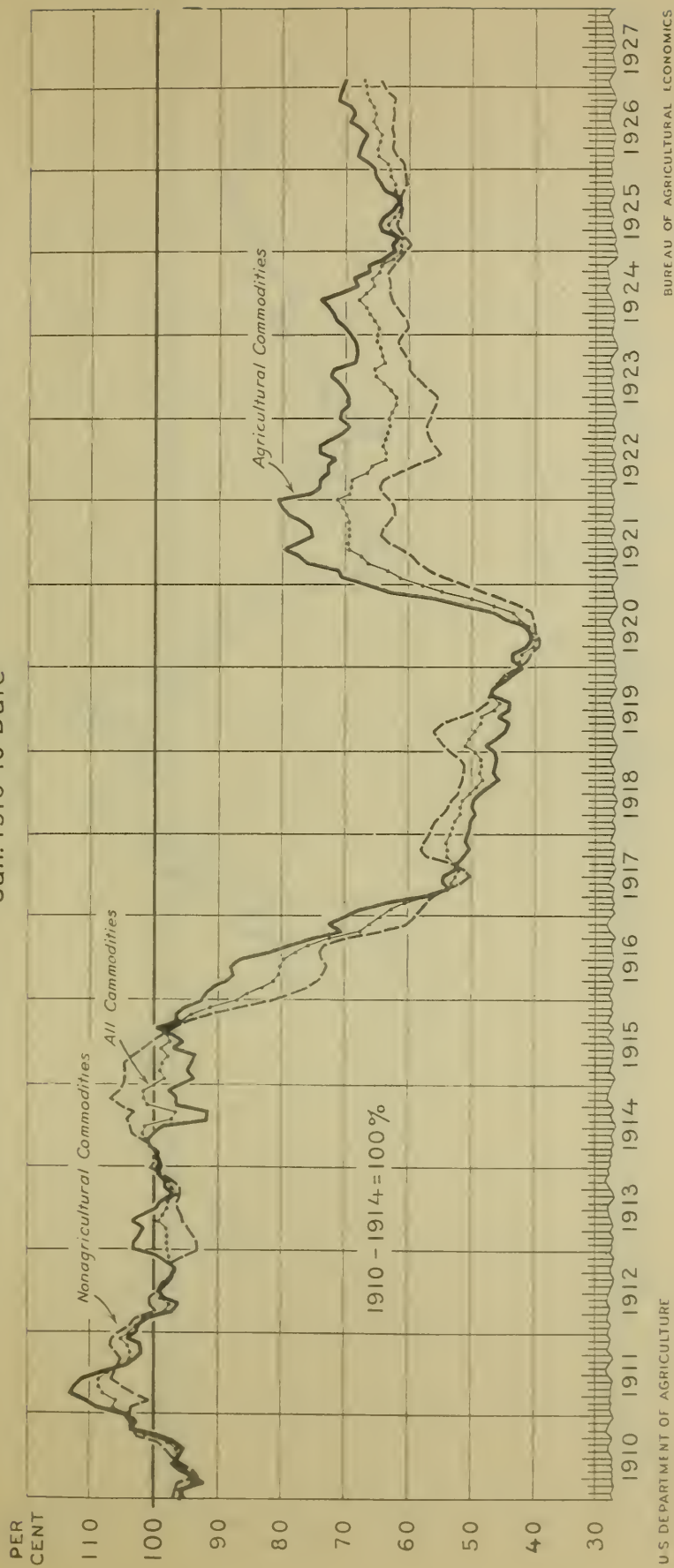


Chart 31.



RELATIVE PURCHASING POWER OF FARM PRODUCTS

Jan. 1910 to Date

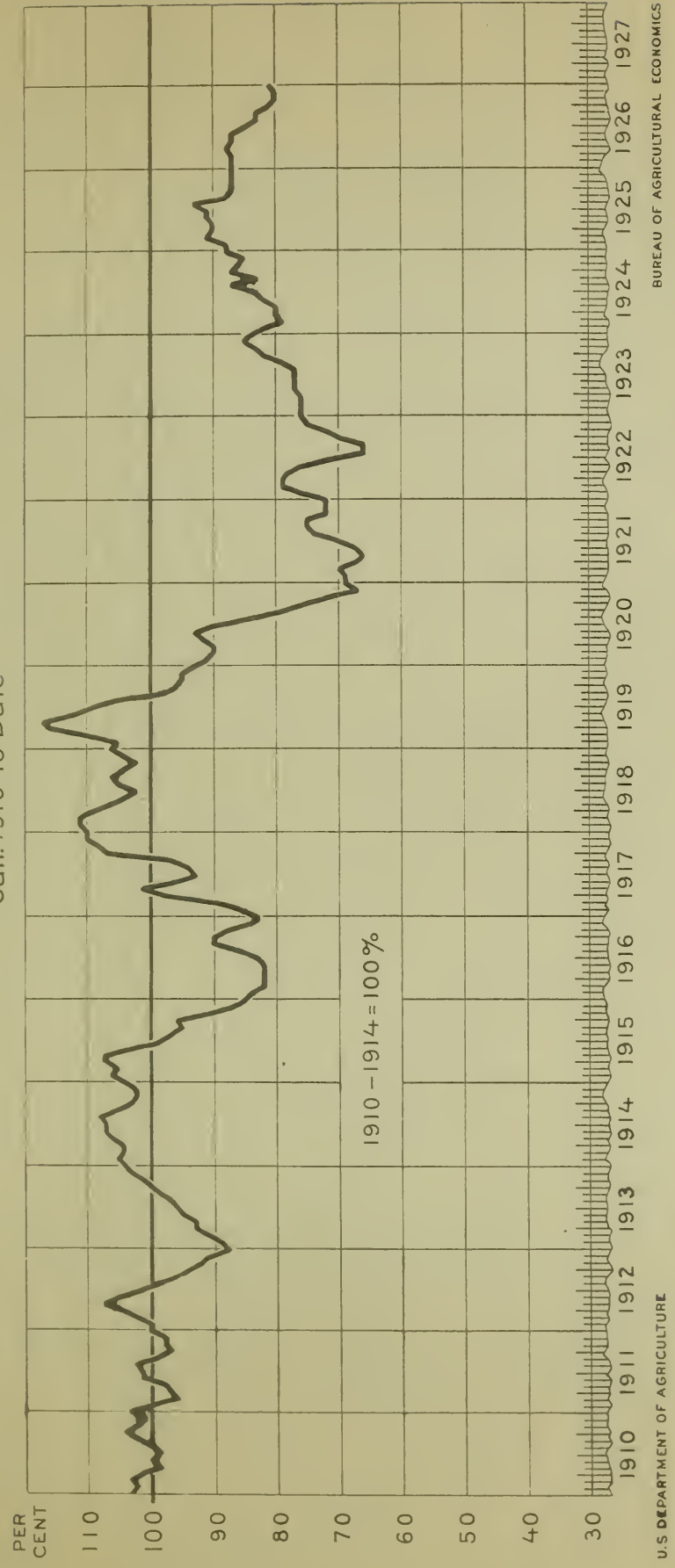


Chart 32.

